

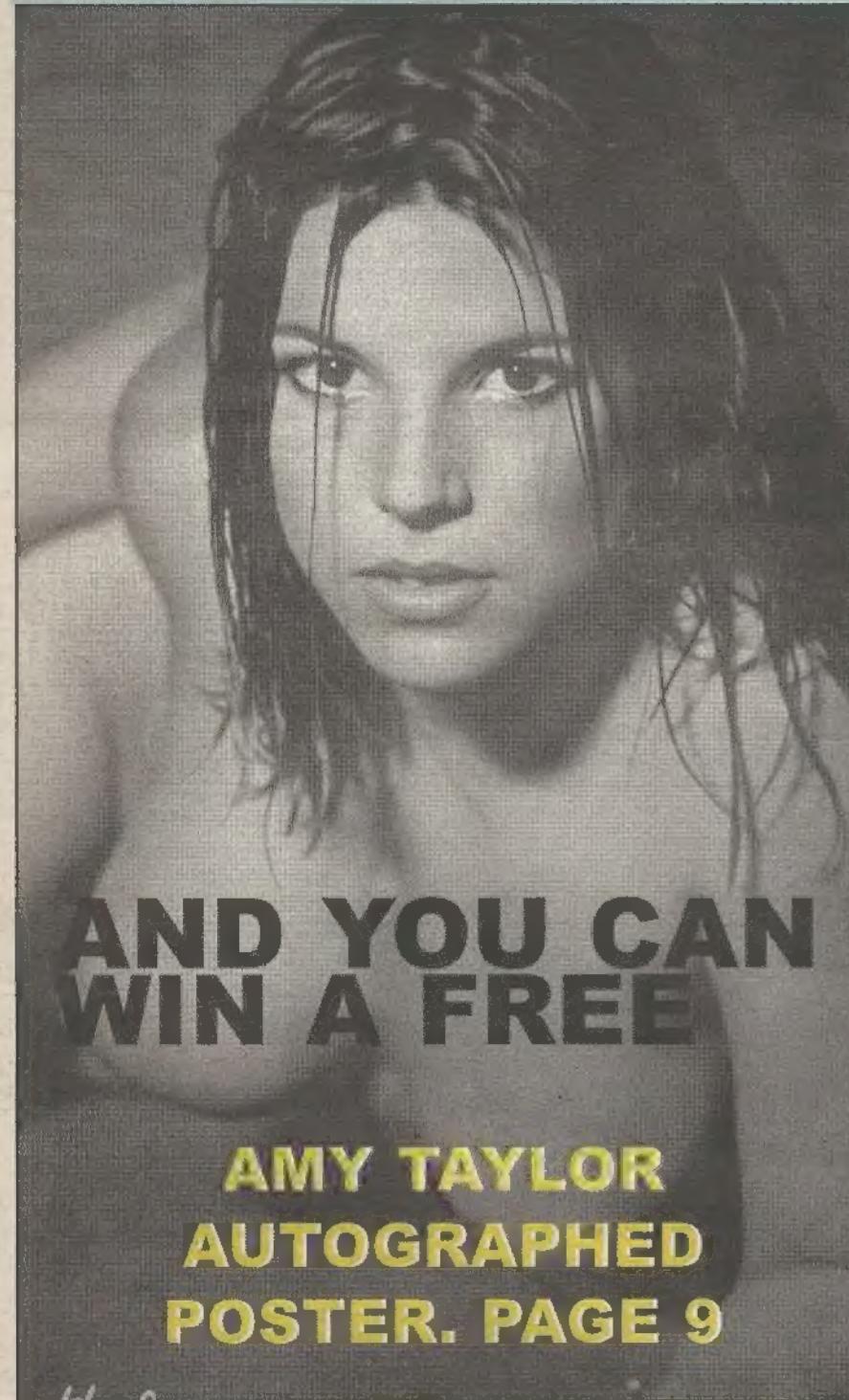
INSIDE

SOCCER

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SEX SELLS!



AND YOU CAN
WIN A FREE

AMY TAYLOR
AUTOGRAPHED
POSTER. PAGE 9

How about this for irony. This time last year the practically unknown Matildas were preparing for the 1999 Australia Cup. Having just qualified for the World Cup, the tournament was part of their USA '99 preparations. The Australia Cup received little if any publicity outside the soccer media, despite Australia going on to win the tournament, beating the highly-rated Italians in the final.

Football, it seemed, wasn't enough to sell the national team, a point underscored by our poor performance in the World Cup later in the year, despite USA '99 being a spectacular marketing and media success.

Fast forward a year and despite not playing a single game in Australia since our disappointing World Cup, the Matildas are the talk of the town; sitting pretty after their inaugural and controversial nude calendar received a massive amount of local and global media interest this last week.

It has been an instructive seven days in the story of the marketing of our national women's side.

In Australia the Matildas became an overnight sensation after a voracious media launch in Sydney last week. With publicity never seen before, our girls became a news story on every single Australian TV network, prompting more public debate about the calendar and endless stories in the press.

CNN in the USA picked up the story and from there it was aired in various parts of Europe. The English tabloid The Sun devoted a back page to it, as did the Malaysia Times - even US shock-jock Howard Stern had his say on it.

The AWSA received over 800 E-mails following the launch.

Added to this was the assured performance of the Matildas under the glare of the media spotlight, further enhancing the glow around the team.

Internet chat lists in Australia were flooded with requests for pictures to be sent

worldwide. As Matilda Anissa Tann-Darby says in her column today (page 20) the objective was achieved.

The distributors of the calendar just laughed and said, "Yes it's selling very very well" when asked about the Matildas yesterday.

AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher said US sales estimates could deliver a million dollars to women's soccer in this country. "We may make more from this than the sport has made in 26 years," he observed.

He also said that for the first time companies are coming to the AWSA with sponsorship proposals.

Never before has the maxim 'Sex Sells' been more evident than here.

The Matildas - delivering this big hit of publicity - now want to prove they aren't just calendar girls. The world champion USA side arrives in January to play in the four-team Australia Cup. This is the perfect opportunity for our players to show they can cut it on the park.

And now that the Matildas' name has been exposed (pardon the pun) to more Australians than ever before, the media will hopefully give the team better coverage.

Well that's the plan anyway.

Certainly, having the Americans here gives the up-coming tournament a certain cachet - particularly if Mia Hamm is part of the touring squad - yet it's vital that the Matildas prove themselves in a football sense in order to build on what has been an outstanding PR campaign.

It will however be interesting to see how many of the media who attended the launch will be there on January 7 when the Matildas play Sweden in the opening game of the Australia Cup prior to a Spirit match.

One thing however is for sure. Northern Spirit's magnificent supporters will be there in numbers to back the Matildas in January. You can count on them.

MORE ON PAGE TWO AND TWENTY

Plus: Mark Byrnes, Paul Foster, Archie Thompson, NSL, Aussies Abroad, Ivan Zelic, the Gibson Bros. and the Nov. NSL All-Stars

MATILDAS PUT THEIR BODIES ON THE LINE FOR SOCCER

Calendar sales tipped to soar worldwide

By Aidan Ormond

The two male journalists gave it away. Preening themselves in a Darlinghurst laneway prior to entering the hep La Chicane bar last Tuesday morning in Sydney, you just knew this was not your average soccer press conference.

In one of the biggest media turnouts since Pele's visit in the early seventies, twelve hitherto unknown soccer playing women - from a hitherto largely unknown team called 'The Matildas' - held court as a mainly male media contingent jostled for the best shot.

The fact that many of the media did not know most of the girls' names gave it all a delicious irony. The soccer media present just stood back in amused disbelief (not that most of us could get close to the goddesses anyway!)

And what made it more remarkable was the Matildas' assured performance in front of the glare of the media spotlight. To a woman they were erudite, charming and in control, as they answered a myriad of questions while framed photos of themselves posing nude hung on the walls all around them.

An interested onlooker was Sydney Morning Herald columnist and ABC's O'Loghlin show regular Tony Squires. When asked what he was doing at a women's soccer launch he replied with a smile: "Oh, the idea of cheap column inches."

Sexual metaphors aside, what does such a launch turnout say about the media? Squires cut to the heart of the issue: "The fact that someone disappeared up a laneway with four copies, and that others are scratching around for one, says we are all very shallow."

"The last thing I went to that was similar to this was the Man of the Year launch," he explained with a mischievous grin, "which I went to for basically the same reason as today - because I thought it would be pretty funny, and it was."

On a serious note, he observed the hypocrisy that exists in the media when it

'There's only one thing worse than being talked about, and that's not being talked about'

Oscar Wilde

canny midfielder.

Meanwhile AWSA President Shirley Brown was adamant that the players were the key to the success. "They all wanted to do it, they chose to do it, we did not force them to do it. They want to raise the profile of the sport and hopefully by doing this people will get along and watch them play in January and see what fantastic athletes they are."

"Obviously it's risky because some people can be offended by this type of venture, but the girls have put their bodies on the line for their sport and it is giving us the profile we need."

Brown was hopeful that the fans would turn up to see the Matildas play, as well as the Ansett Summer Series (beginning again next year), Australia's domestic women's soccer competition.

Matilda Alison Forman did not believe the bare-naked ladies adorning the calendar was such a big deal. "I don't have a problem with nudity," she said matter-of-factly. "We really enjoyed it, the shots were fun and I think it turned out

comes to women's sport. "It's interesting that people in newspapers are writing how this is not the way for women soccer players to get into the papers, yet they are working for outlets that normally would not print anything about women's sport. It's an interesting dilemma."

As for the calendar itself and Squires felt it was "artistic ... there's nothing hideous about them at all, I think they are fine."

Another convert to the Matildas' cause was Marconi Stallions' Chad Gibson. "I don't think women's soccer has seen this sort of publicity before, so anything that can lift the profile of our game has got to be good. I think the calendar is very tastefully done," he said.

As for the Stallions doing their own calendar Gibson was less keen to drop his drop everything (literally) and do it. "We'd have to discuss the money first," said the

magic. We all just wanted to get the calendar out on the shelves and were stoked how it finished up."

Striker Sharon Black - who posed together with Forman - said it was just like any photo shoot. "The photographer made us feel at ease. It was so much fun really. Maybe a week or a

week and a half ago we weren't expecting much interest in the calendar but the last three or four days has shown there is a fair bit of attention.

"We have a new coach, new system and some new players. So we are playing, I think, much better. We want to peak at the Olympics but naturally we want to beat the best in the world, the USA, in January here in the Australia.

"Soccer is a great sport and we hope it continues to grow in the new millennium," added Black.

1974 Socceroo Johnny Warren was so taken with the calendar he proposed that our World Cup heroes of 25 years ago also get their gear off. "I'm not joking!" said Warren beneath the group shot of the naked Matildas.

Yet the kidding around hid a darker side that Warren was keen to explore. "These are sports people who are discriminated against because they are women,

and because they play soccer. This country has discriminated against those two things for so long, so what are they sup-

posed to do.

"I can understand what they are trying to do.

"They are expected to compete on a world stage against professionals yet they are at a disadvantage. They are knocking on doors trying to get support so what else can they do?" he asked.

"As for the shots, people will have a different view but I have no trouble with them. It's a beautiful thing. Women's soc-

cer will look back at this as a turning point.

"They play in World Cups, they play in Olympics and no-one gives a stuff ... they have now drawn attention to our game."

Sandra Bartlett, mother of Matilda and calendar girl Traci Bartlett was there at the launch to lend support. "For the girls this is good publicity for the Australia Cup games in January."

Mrs Bartlett however was told about her daughter's involvement in the calendar after it was shot, not before. "I didn't mind. Hopefully this will draw attention to the fact that women can play soccer just as good as the men."

"Overwhelmed" was the response of AWSA's urbane chief executive officer Warren Fisher. "Who would have believed it has created the spark it has created. Now we have to turn this into long-term support for the Matildas and back it up with credibility on the park."

"Australian soccer needs that lift to bring more fans in and the Matildas have that niche in the market. They don't want to be known as great in a calendar but no good on the park. They want to be known as both," said Fisher.

Matilda Traci McGovern reiterated the point that no-one felt uncomfortable doing the shoot: "Look we were comfortable with it. It was professionally done, and we see each other in the showers all the time so we are comfortable with each other so it wasn't a big deal for us."

"Some people have bagged us out when they haven't even seen the calendar. We respect everyone's opinion but they also have to respect us and our choice. Like I said, we are all very comfortable with it."

Photographer Rodney Stewart was initially wary of models that had not done any photographic work before, but his fears were allayed. "They were great to work with. They showed that spirit that is going to make them a great soccer team in the next twelve months."

Asked if he follows the world game he said: "Now I do!"

From the soccer media's point of view C7 and Sydney Morning Herald journalist Michael Cockerill was another to support the calendar. "I think it's a good idea because it's got the publicity. Obviously the girls are comfortable with it and there is no suggestion that they have been pressured into doing this. If there was that suggestion for financial or whatever reasons, then I would not have been okay about it."

"As you can see the girls are happy with it. Obviously the shots go a little further than some previous calendars but nudity is nudity as far as I'm concerned."

As for the calendar itself? Well, you'll just have to go out and buy it yourself. It is not for sale for under 18s. Get it while you can.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Late June: Matildas fail to win a game at World Cup USA '99, which nevertheless turned out to be a massive success in terms of crowds, sponsorship and standard. American Soccer booms as the 'Mia Hamm Generation' takes hold of the female youth of America. Meanwhile Australia arrives home in a shambles. Some players stay on overseas and the national coach resigns shortly after.

July: Idea is floated for nude calendar. The players respond favourably to idea, keen to boost their flagging profile in the lead-up to next year's Olympics. Money is not the motivating factor although the AWSA lock in royalty agreement for initial print run with publishers.

August: Noted photographer Rodney Stewart flies to AIS to shoot calendar in an AIS theatrette over a two day period.

Late November: Invites sent out to media featuring a pouting and naked Amy Taylor on cover. Sparks huge media interest even before the official launch. Up to

15,000 already on order.

November 30: Official launch day. One of the biggest and most voracious media turnouts seen in many years. One Herald photographer says he has "never seen anything like this" for a soccer launch. Stories on every free-to-air and cable TV channel in Australia, together with many front page stories in the press and wide radio coverage. Talkback callers have their say as conservative and some feminist commentators criticize Matildas. CNN picks up the story and it is subsequently shown in Scandinavia and Italy.

December 1: First day of Summer but AOC puts dampener on calendar with injunction to stop production of calendar due to legal problems with the use of 'Olympic' word in calendar. Gives the calendar another day's run in the media, engendering public sympathy for 'our underpaid soccer girls', particularly with the Olympic movement's image currently on the nose. Estimates of orders anywhere between 30-45,000. Predictions are of a best ever seller anyway. Is lead

story on popular net site Football 365, with picture of Amy Taylor.

December 2: Officials sort out problem with AOC, agreeing to delete word 'Olympic' from second print run. Gives AWSA chance to renegotiate a better deal for the players' royalties. Giant US on-line company Amazon.com expresses interest in distributing the calendar to its hundreds of thousands of net users. Locally-based internet chat sites are inundated with requests from Holland, Brazil and other parts of the world for photos from calendar. Worldwide sales tipped to hit the 200,000 mark.

December 4: Still being talked about in the media. SMH columnist Tony Squires (above) devotes almost an entire column to the calendar, it's back page of England's *The Sun* and *Malaysian Times*. Even US shock-jock Howard Stern mentions it. Matildas become global news.



NEW MILLENNIUM STAR?

Power's MARK BYRNES

By John Vratic

It has been a very busy and eventful eight months for the Australian Joeys' (Under 17) World Cup captain Mark Byrnes. At the beginning of this calendar year he was one of the many talented hopefuls, albeit one of the more outstanding ones, playing for the NSW Institute of Sport in the National Youth League (NYL).

Fast forward to New Zealand at the just completed U/17 World Cup where Byrnes was a probably a Jess Van Strattan finger-tip save away from holding aloft the prized trophy instead of his Brazilian counterpart.

To have been beaten on penalties by the Brazilian team was a gut wrenching experience for Byrnes and his team mates, made worse by the fact that the captain missed the first penalty.

As disappointing as the result was, Byrnes will be able to look back on the tournament with great pride - to captain the first Australian team to have reached a World Cup final will forever stand tall amongst his career achievements.

Byrnes' heady two weeks in New Zealand was quickly put behind him upon his return to his NSL club Parramatta Power.

Only matter of a few days after he

came so close to captaining his country to World Cup glory, he found himself back in the training grind with Parramatta at picturesque Ted Horwood Reserve in Baulkham Hills, Power's training ground located in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Reality bites!

Byrnes signed for Power only a few weeks before his departure for South

"I was fifteen playing against 19-year-olds. That helped me a lot".

Joeys captain Mark Byrnes on playing NYL

America in the Joeys' pre-World Cup tour and is yet to make an appearance in Power's NSL starting line-up.

At 17 years of age (he turns 18 in February) time is on his side but these days youngsters want it all NOW, and Byrnes is anxious to establish himself in the Power team before his inevitable departure to one of the many overseas teams that would have been observing him in New Zealand.

At 180 cm (six feet) - but still growing - and lightly built, Byrnes is the ideal physique for his chosen position of stopper.

His career, like thousands of other football playing kids, began at the tender

age of five when he donned the shirt of his local club Concord Juniors.

He started playing midfield but was pushed back into his current position in the Youth League and settled into the role during his two-and-a-half years at the Institute.

Byrnes attributes his rapid development, and that of other Australian's youngsters, to the fact that he played against much older players in the NYL.

"I was fifteen playing against nineteen year olds and that helped me a lot," Byrnes commented.

Byrnes' first taste of Australian representation occurred in the World Youth Cup (Under 20) held earlier this year in Nigeria.

Selection was a bolt out of the blue as Byrnes was not part of the squad until the eve of team's departure.

"I was invited to the camp at Parklea for a day and I played against the Korean national team that night and then just out of the blue they rang up and said I was in the team, it was a big surprise but also a big honour."

Byrnes didn't get on the field in Nigeria but regarded the trip as excellent experience for what was to follow.

"To get that experience in Nigeria helped me greatly with the under 17s."

Upon his return from Nigeria Byrnes had only a couple of days rest before entering a training camp with the Joeys as prepa-



Mark Byrnes: What a year for the 17-year-old. Selection in the Young Socceroos, captaining the Joeys in the World Cup Final and signing for professional club Parramatta Power.

ration for the World Cup qualifiers which were held in Fiji.

After a slow start in the opening game the Aussies breezed through with an easy 5-0 win over the hosts in the final.

The victory was the penultimate step towards New Zealand as they had to still get past the fourth team from Asia - Bahrain. A narrow 2-1 win in Canberra made the return leg in Bahrain a difficult task.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

PARRAMATTA POWER vs **NEWCASTLE BREAKERS**

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Mark Bynes continued

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"The boys were a bit upset with the press as they were saying that the lead wasn't enough so we went out and played extra hard to win (in Bahrain)."

"In the second game we played well, we got the early goal and sat back a bit but ended up with a win and got through to the World Cup."

The first game in New Zealand brought defeat to the Joeys but, ironically, it also gave them confidence as the 2-1 loss against the '97 winners Brazil convinced the boys that they were good enough to go all the way.

The match exposed the Joeys to the cut throat tactics of the professional Brazilian team who attempted to intimidate the young Aussies with aggressive behaviour as the teams were coming out onto the field. As well as pushing and shoving the Brazil youngsters resorted to spitting at one of the Australians amongst the dirty tricks they used.

"After the first game against Brazil we said we can match it with anyone here, they're the world champions, we're a good enough team."

"We had the skills, we were probably physically stronger and mentally stronger than them."

And so it proved to be prophetic as the two teams emerged from the group of death and traveled a similar path to reach the final and ultimately, to the penalty

shootout.

Bynes was originally supposed to take the fifth penalty but because the first two takers were too nervous to take them in the game against the USA Bynes, as captain, elected to take the first one himself.

Having been successful against the USA Bynes felt confident enough to take the first one against Brazil.

"When I was running up to take the kick I picked my spot already, and as I was starting to kick it I was already committed to kicking and the goalkeeper started diving the way I was kicking it, so I tried to put it a little wider and it's missed the goal."

"I was devastated after that but once they missed one as well we were back in it."

"Then we were just unlucky when their goalkeeper got a hand to the ball it hit the post and went out whereas when Jess got a hand to the ball it went in."

And what lies ahead for Bynes? Like most youngsters his ambition is to play overseas with the Premier League the ultimate goal.

He has already had trials with Arsenal early on in the year but because he isn't fortunate to have a parent born in the UK he can't go there immediately and will instead seek his fame and fortune elsewhere.

Let's hope that we can be witness to the blossoming career of Bynes for a few years longer before Australia loses yet another talented football player.

NSL fixture changes coming up

Please note the following changes to NSL games coming up, as supplied to us by Soccer Australia.

The Round 14 game between South Melbourne and Carlton will be played on March 1, 2000 at 7.30pm at Bob Jane Stadium.

The Round 15 game between Northern Spirit and Sydney United at North Sydney Oval will start at 8.00pm.

The Round 15 game between Marconi Stallions and Parramatta Power at Marconi Stadium will start at 5.00pm.

The Round 17 game between Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne will be played at Belmore Sports Ground at 6.30pm.

The Round 18 game between South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic will be played at Bob Jane Stadium at 6.00pm.

The Round 17 game between Power and Falcons at Parra Stadium is now on Saturday Jan 22. Kick-off still 7.30pm (supplied by Power).

The Round 18 game between Gippsland Falcons and Parramatta Power at Falcons Stadium kicks off at 6.00pm.

By the way, these days NSL publicity is done by Mary Dahdah, who is doing a fine job. Well-done and keep it up!

And please note also INSIDE SOCCER'S NEW POSTAL ADDRESS IS ...

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GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR

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1995/96.

I doubt there has ever been a weekend like it, and hopefully it won't happen again.

The NSL is by no means a rough-house competition, but embarrassing figures like those from round nine would suggest otherwise.

There has got to be some pro-active liaison between Power, the coaches, match officials and the league to establish firm lines of communication and some common ground.

It should be an immediate priority.

At the current moment no-one is satisfied, least of all the refs.

Something's got to give.

Brisbane was well worth its 5-1 trouncing of South Melbourne recently but one or two South Melbourne players should have a long, hard look in the mirror after that performance.

Instead of preening themselves, basking in past glories and fantasising about the dream match-up against Manchester United in the World Club Championship in January, a couple of blokes should have put their hand up for coach Ange Postecoglou's milestone game at Suncorp Stadium in round nine.

Postecoglou, who was coaching a club NSL record

102nd game that evening, deserved a little better than such a galling defeat.

For the record it wasn't Ange's ugliest defeat as a coach however.

That came in the final regular season round of 1997/98, when South Melbourne was cleaned out to the tune of 5-0 by Carlton - and at beloved Bob Jane Stadium as well.

Mind you Ange's boys more than made up for that thumping by going on to win the grand final that year - ironically against Carlton, the first of two in succession.

A brief mention of two items which should be on the essential reading lists of all NSL fans.

Firstly Australia's premier fanzine, 'Studs Up', just gets better and better with age and I dips me lid to chief head-kicker Kevin Christopher and his crew for establishing, maintaining and improving on such an appealing product over the last five years or more.

And while this might be dismissed as gratuitous back-slapping, it's not, because I don't write the stuff.

But if you're smart enough to be reading 'Inside Soccer' you probably already know how invaluable our comprehensive NSL weekly match reports section is becoming.

It has been more than a decade since the demise of the legendary weekly 'Soccer Action', which I always believed provided the most comprehensive cover of NSL action.

I honestly believe the crew covering the blow-by-blow action for 'Inside Soccer' has now surpassed those landmark standards.

Well done, folks.



COMMENT By C7 and Inside Soccer's Greg Blake

GLORY FOOTY IS AN EVENT

Although familiarity hasn't exactly bred contempt, after watching and reporting on this league for more than 20 years it is difficult not to develop a 'been there, done that' weariness towards the whole affair.

Personally I've always felt the NSL rocks, but watching players, coaches, administrators and venues come and go, and literally hundreds of games over the passing seasons, there inevitably develops a 'sameish' quality to the grind of each NSL year.

It takes big games and extraordinary events to really set the pulse racing and adrenalin rushing.

What struck me most about having the privilege of visiting Perth Oval for a Glory home game for the first time recently was that I was about to attend an event.

It was apparent from the moment I flew into Perth on match-day that Glory were about to rumble with Carlton that very day; local radio said so, the Sunday newspaper underscored it and the ultimate litmus test, the local taxi driver, didn't just know of his home-town NSL team, he would have yacked on all day about 'the lads' given the opportunity.

For two decades I've watched NSL in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney but

rarely have I felt so much a part of a significant sporting occasion as I did in Perth that afternoon.

In Perth I wasn't just linking up with a minority enclave of like-minded passionate soccer fans while the rest of the world passed by with a yawn of disinterest.

Despite a test cricket match in town on the same day there was a palpable sense of this game belonging to the whole city; that all roads led to Perth Oval; that what transpired over the 90 minutes of game time would be relevant to the wider community.

It was marvelous; it is a trip to be recommended to any NSL fan feeling a little

world-weary.

And it is an eye-opener, especially when one considers that as little as five years ago Perth Glory wasn't even a gleam in the eyes of the club's founding fathers.

Remember, Perth had no instruction manual, no role model.

Everything they've achieved - and the club's achievements have been significant - has come through foresight, planning, dedication, vision, ambition and sheer bloody toil.

In the area that is particularly relevant to me - that is, media coverage of the game - the trip to Perth has caused me to immediately re-evaluate my cynicism of mainstream media around the nation.

Yes, there is often some diabolical and destructive bias against soccer in the media.

But curiously not in Perth, where the Glory is apparently now every bit as respected and newsworthy as the Eagles, Dockers and the Aussie test cricket team. That hasn't happened by accident.

By the way, I don't have the answers as to how Perth Glory has drilled its way into the local sporting landscape so handsomely.

But clearly Perth Glory does.

Which is why representatives of every other struggling NSL outfit in the country - and Soccer Australia itself for that matter - should be making a bee-line, caps in hands, to Western Australia to humbly request some guidelines on such matters from the one club in the domestic competition which clearly has got it right.

One thing that is apparent after experiencing Perth's success first-hand is that our eastern state propensity for petty whining about mainstream coverage of the game is ignored by the people who count anyway, making it a complete waste of time and energy.

The logic which says that local soccer is under-represented in the media is clearly flawed and it ignores all the potential that Perth has engendered.

When the game has participation rates as high as soccer does, with tens of



thousands of players registered with affiliated bodies across the country from a young age and on mailing lists, when local venues are bristling with players, fans and families every weekend - to say nothing of indoor five-a-side venues every week night, when considerable amounts of column centimetres are devoted to leagues world-wide, when viewing figures for big TV events are often staggering, when the MCG averages 70,000 for glamour matches, no domestic sport is in a more advantageous position to turn participant or dormant fan into avid and interested spectator.

To do so will obviously take more hard work and less of the endless, empty rhetoric.

And that concept is probably a little scary to some, because rhetoric and hot-air has been pretty much the specialty of the house since the NSL was born in 1977.

But with Perth now having set a cracking pace the administrators of the NSL at every level can only have themselves to blame and should be held accountable if that potential remains as it has done for the past 20 years, as mere potential.

It has always been easier to blame media bias but thankfully Perth Glory has finally exposed the ineptitude or just sheer laziness of those who would have us believe such a myth in the first place.

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PAUL FOSTER: Prepared for anything



Paul Foster after one of his nine goals this season at Brisbane.
"Things are on track," he says.

By Aidan Ormond

As he puts it he's been doing "this" for years, which is why Brisbane's Paul Foster is still surprised many NSL fans are still unsure who he is.

This thing he does is score goals, and he's been doing it almost non-stop for the last five years.

The 31-year-old's current NSL scoring return is almost a goal a game (nine going into last weekend) and this should not surprise those who have followed his peripatetic club career at state and NSL levels here, and in Singapore and Hong Kong.

The key to success for Brisbane Striker Paul Foster is in meticulous preparation of body and mind, a legacy of his time in the cauldron of Asian football that is Hong Kong.

But more of Honkers later.

Brisbane Strikers were unbeaten going into last Friday night's game loss at Newcastle. Sitting on top of the ladder they also paraded the league's most predatory striker, Paul Foster, in a side brim full of players capable of playing with and without the ball.

One secret to the remarkable team success in Queensland these days is a happy dressing room. "There aren't any egos in this team," said Foster, a former

the coach who Foster saves his most lavish praise for.

"What Kossie's (John Kosmina) done," explained the well-spoken Foster, "is find players who are good enough to play NSL from the local leagues. And Kossie has tremendous respect both as a coach and as a former Socceroo.

"His sessions are great. Sure, he'll say what he thinks but he handles us well.

"We work in training on playing small-sided games so as to put pressure constantly on the team with the ball. Main idea is to put the player with the ball under pressure as quick as possible, and I think that has worked for us.

"Our goal," he said from Brisbane last week, "was always to make the finals - once you are there anything can happen, so I guess we are on track."

Foster arrived back in Australia last season after seven years in Hong Kong. He chose Northern Spirit.

The Lismore-bom striker was based in North Sydney for the final ten rounds of last season, yet things did not quite work out at the glamour club.

"It was a disappointing time and a missed opportunity," he reflected. "For me the game time was just not enough."

He was in the run-on eleven only once, with a few sub appearances thrown.

While not wanting to dwell on having scored more goals this year than the entire Spirit side, the irony of the situation is not lost on him.

"They need someone upfront this year," he said.

"Having said that it is the best club off the field I have ever seen in my life. They have everything in place and fantastic support, and I think their club should be the blueprint for all future clubs. An absolutely superb soccer club."

He arrived with a reputation as a goalscorer, yet the Hong Kong league's profile in Australia is low. It's a pity because the league is quite demanding, according to Foster.

"Hong Kong's a difficult league to play in because you are one of three foreign players and so you are expected to perform ... the pressure is definitely on. There were times when I had to perform, I was literally 90 minutes away from losing my contract on one or two occasions.

"That's why it's difficult to play in Asia, they expect so much."

He was top scorer for three years

AIS student.

"Usually there is one person in every team you play for that does not fit in ... that is, a dickhead. I can honestly say each and every one of us gets on well, and that's important."

"You look at Ian Rush's interviews here, and he also said that having a team ethos was so important at Liverpool to their success."

Foster also highlights the form of Strikers keeper Clint Bolton as crucial to the team's success; he rates him as the best gloveman in the country at the moment.

Bolton's recent call-up for the second Brazil game for the Socceroos testimony to his stunning form. But it's

and was given guest spots in the Hong Kong national team, which, for an Aussie like Foster was a bit odd.

"Yeah, I played against AC Milan, Tottenham, Chile (where he scored a hat-trick) Poland, Sweden, Nigeria."

As for a boy from Lismore living in Hong Kong, Foster clearly felt the need to live away from the hectic life of the former British colony.

He believes Australia is now the last stop on his long and winding career road. His girlfriend will arrive from Hong Kong next year, he hopes to settle down here and perhaps explore coaching and some business options in the real estate industry after his career is over.

And with the way he looks after his body, that could be some time.

Asked to describe himself he says it's the hardest question he has ever been asked. "Off the field my personality is a little complex. I don't suffer fools gladly."

In terms of a footballer he felt he was a perfectionist "who will never undertake anything without full preparation. I prepare myself mentally and physically. I have a whole program for that thing, which includes things like visualising scoring."

"What you have to do is see how you can improve. I see so many young players who don't take this approach to nutrition, lifting weights, mental work etc. If you can get a 5% increase in all these areas you can get a 20% improvement."

"That's the Asian influence on me. In Asia you cannot afford to be poorly prepared otherwise you're out. In Australia you can get away with it, but not over

"The preparation of some players I have seen in my career has been just ridiculous. One player, the captain of Hong Kong was at McDonalds having a Big Mac meal an hour before kicking off against Tottenham!"

Paul Foster

"What the boy from Lismore does is move away from Hong Kong (laughing)," said Foster, "and lives on a small outlying Island away from the mad rush."

"I mean, Hong Kong makes Sydney look like a stroll in the park. I couldn't handle it, it was a rat race. So we lived on a small island (Lan To) that had no cars and was quite peaceful."



Paul Foster (far left) with teammates and John Kosmina (left of centre) celebrating another win. The side is still on the top of the heap despite losing at Newcastle.

there.

"It's a bad idea to go drinking after a game but if you've had a cracking win and you're in a good mood well ... but it's not recommended."

Playing in the leagues in Australia and Asia has given him a good insight into the way players prepare themselves. And there have been some particularly unprofessional examples.

"The preparation of some players I have seen in my career has been just ridiculous. One player, the captain of Hong Kong was at McDonalds having a Big Mac meal an hour before kicking off against Tottenham," he said aghast.

"For some of us it was a great chance to see how good you are against quality opposition and here is the captain letting the whole side down. Just unbelievable."

Foster is one of those players who takes the business of performing on a football field very seriously. It's a science to him, and he won't rest until he receives the plaudits here that he had in Hong Kong. He has made a good start.

PAUL FOSTER'S CLUB PROFILE:

HONG KONG:
Instant-Dict
Kitchee FC
Happy Valley

SINGAPORE:
Tyrwhitt Soccerites (since folded)

AUSTRALIA:
Canberra Cosmos
South Melbourne
Northern Spirit
AIS
Sunshine Georgies
Canberra Metros
Avala
Parramatta Eagles
Brisbane Strikers

Archie Thompson Have a 'Bundi' good time!

By Aidan Ormond

Archie Thompson's favourite *Seinfeld* character is Kramer: unpredictable, entertaining and a real individual. Rather like Archie really. And like Kramer, Thompson's background is interesting too.

Carlton striker Thompson was born in New Zealand, with a Kiwi father and a Papua New Guinean mother. His childhood in Australia (he left NZ when he was three) saw him travel extensively around this country.

"I had a father who had different types of jobs although I was never sure of what exactly he did!" said Thompson after Carlton's thumping 5-1 win over Cosmos.

His junior soccer was played in Wodonga with Twin City Wanderers. In fact Thompson's younger brother Martin, 8, is also showing good form at that club.

Gippsland was Archie Thompson's first NSL club, a club that prides itself on a great team camaraderie. "Yeah, everyone sort of gets into the swing of the place the atmosphere you sort of take it wherever you go... I met Marcus Stergiopoulos later at Carlton, who is a Gippsland local, and he is probably one of the funniest guys I have ever met... they were good times at Gippsland."

However the differences between Carlton and Gippsland are marked. "Carlton is so professional and that is the big difference. Everything they do is thorough."

And living in Melbourne is perfect for this likeable 21-year-old. "I love Melbourne. I live in St Kilda and find Melbourne a classy city."

Last time I spoke with "Bundi", as he is known ("Manny Gotis at Falcons gave me that name and it has stuck ever since, I don't even know what it's supposed to mean") Spain was his preferred choice as an overseas destination. It still is. "I think I would suit it there more than England because of the higher skills in the Spanish Primera."

Meanwhile here in Australia Carlton coach Stuart Munro has greatly impressed Thompson, playing in first full season at Carlton after transferring midstream last season from Gippsland.

"Stuart is very positive. He knows what he wants. He has a huge squad and he knows where he wants to go and is very encouraging."

As for Scottish international legend Davie McPherson, Thompson is equally in awe: "Davie McPherson's a top bloke. His success has not gone to his head. He still has that great touch on the ball. I think he will still be playing when he is 60!"

"Big Slim (McPherson) helps us when we are doing something wrong. I learn from all the guys like 'Stabber' (Andrew Marth) and 'Jonesy' (John Markovski.)

"And everyone in the squad is fantastic, and they always make me laugh," he added.

"We have the strongest squad in the league which makes me feel we can finish in the top two. Just making the finals is another dream."

His contract is up at the end of



Carlton's Archie Thompson: still hopeful of an Olyroo spot.

next season. Clearly if the opportunity arose to play overseas he would not turn it down. "If Stuart wanted to sell me before well, that's up to him."

The biggest highlight of Thompson's career so far has been the three match Olyroo Challenge against Brazil in March 1998. The Olyroos won that series 3-0 and Thompson got a run in game two in Adelaide.

"For me I had shin splints so I never had the chance to really show what Archie has to offer. But just being part of it was a huge honour."

But this year has been a lean one for his Olyroo ambitions. When the training camps have been announced, his name has been missing. "I see them go to camps and I'm not invited and it starts to play on your mind. It does hurt me."

"Playing for the Olyroos in Sydney is my dream. But I am not going to dwell on these sorts of things that may bring me down. I just have to keep doing well in the league, but I would give my right arm to play in the Olympics with Australia."

"All I can do is perform each week and be in the starting line-up at my club," he noted.

As for the crowds at Carlton and Thompson is perplexed as everyone else. "It's my job to play for the team so I don't really know too much about that side of the club."

"Having said that it does play on your mind a little when you are playing for arguably the most professional club in the league. The club is doing an exceptional job of promoting the club, Melbourne just needs to come down, they won't be disappointed."

Thompson was even happy to get the gear off Matildas style if it meant more fans would turn up. "Yeah why not. We did something like that at Gippsland last year where we took a photo of us nude in the changing rooms with soccer balls covering us. It was to promote an auction night."

"I am sure even 'Sterg' (Marcus Stergiopoulos) would fly over just to be part of that!"

One of Thompson's heroes is the Spanish-based Brazilian Denilson. The Carlton star was fortunate enough to meet him while the Brazilian from Real Betis was here for the Socceroo games.

"Through Alex Moreira's uncle, who was a translator for the tour, I went to Denilson's room and meet him. Denilson couldn't speak English but he said to Moreira that I had ugly hair!"

Archie Thompson's advice for kids? "Just keep at it. Never give up." And that's exactly what he plans to do with his Olyroo and overseas playing ambitions. Giddy-up!

Kylie Gillies on the Socceroos, Joeys and Wadey!

Channel 7 Sports reporter and presenter Kylie Gillies sat down with Inside Soccer's Aidan Ormond to have a yarn about Aussie Football ...

Kyles, you must be ecstatic about the Joeys' performance at the World Cup for U17s?

Three cheers for the Joeys! They should be very proud; although my blood pressure could have done without the penalty shootout. It may have felt like the end of the world for the guys but it's a fabulous beginning for them all and a great boost for Australian soccer.

You saw the Brazil tour. What were your thoughts on how we played over the two games?

As Frank Farina said, "the commitment was there" although the execution wasn't great in the first match. Mark Viduka made the difference in the second and if only we could get Harry alongside him, we'd be in business.

Favourite Socceroo player?

How 'bout an ex-player? Paul Wade. Nice guy and my Channel 7 colleague who has insightful opinions and isn't afraid to give them. And he brings chocolates into the office!

That Wadey's a charmer. Favourite



The media's job is to inform fans. The fans are the ones who pay for tickets, for merchandise, who watch on TV ensuring big ratings and revenues for soccer. That said, I hear Harry is dating an English soapie star. It can't be making his life any easier with the British press.

So what makes Harry so special?

He's from a country not noted for its superstars and he's gone to England and become one of the biggest names in the most publicised of world sporting codes - and he's tearing them up.

If Harry met Kylie, what would you say to him?

See you the Olympics?

What makes Mark Bosnich so special?

The man has no fear. And he's very confident. If I owned a team, I'd want him in my goal.

I know you were looking forward to seeing Ronaldo. If you could speak to him, what would you say?

Well, my Portuguese isn't up to scratch but if a smile and a nod counts, I did actually meet him. I was covering the Ronaldo story for Channel 7 news and was there when he dropped the bombshell he was pulling out of the Socceroos series (see photo).

The Brazilian press and TV went into overdrive and it was a real scrum. About as exciting as it gets off the field. We asked Ronaldo 'why' and 'how it would affect his relationship with Inter Milan'.

If we qualified for the next World Cup - the first time since 1974 - how would you celebrate?

Champagne. And lots of it. And at last we'd throw away that old news tape of the Iran match at the MCG.



Kylie Gillies interviewing a very glum Ronaldo.

overseas player?

Leonardo. Brilliant on the field and a gentleman off it. He appeared on Sportsworld while in Sydney for the FIFA all-stars game and was charming. Nothing was too much trouble!

Do you think we - the media and public are putting too much pressure on superstars like Harry Kewell, especially when he is still quite young?

No. The players will tell you, no pressure is as great as the pressure they put on themselves. Soccer is a big business. The big-time players know that and get paid accordingly.

Want to win an autographed copy of Robbie Slater's book 'The Hard Way'?

Buy Inside Soccer next week to find out



AUSSIES on the world stage

A round up of how our Aussies players fared abroad in this last week ...



On the outer Socceroo Ned Zelic scored for his German club on the weekend.

After his tumultuous sojourn back to Australia for the games against the Brazil Olympic team, Ned Zelic made a superb comeback for his team 1860 Munchen in the team's super 3-1 away win over Stuttgart.

Zelic was sidelined for Munchen's two games since his return and his comeback against Stuttgart was capped with a top drawer goal in the 54th minute to give his team a 2-0 lead.

Prior to this game Munchen was only one point in front of Stuttgart so an away win against a strong team is indeed meritorious.

Zelic played in his favourite sweeper position, replacing Dutchman Gerard Vanenburg, and was joined on the field by fellow countryman Paul Agostino in the 77th minute.

Agostino was unlucky to be relegated to the substitute bench after his full game performance in the local derby against Bayern Munchen the previous week.

Having hit the post on two occasions against the champions, Agostino would have hoped to retain his place but the return of star striker Winkler put him on the bench.

With this victory 1860 move into fourth position only one game away from the leaders Bayern Munchen and Bayer Leverkusen.

Young Aussies win Singapore's Umbro Cup

At midnight on Friday 8 October a team selected predominantly from the Western Region School of Soccer Excellence and coached by former English professional John Taylor, arrived in Singapore to play in the Umbro International Soccer Tournament.

The weekend was given to a two hour training session at Balestier Stadium and S-League night match on Saturday, and then a friendly international match on Sunday against the Singapore Under 14 national team.

A day trip to Sentosa Island followed by a night safari on Monday helped focus and relax the players before the start of the Umbro International on Tuesday 12

In other action in the Bundesliga featuring Aussies, SSV Ulm slumped further into the mire with a 3-0 away defeat at the hands of Hertha Berlin. Aussie David Zdrilic came on straight after Berlin's second goal in the 67th minute.

Joe Simunic continues to make progress towards a spot in the strong Hamburg side with an appearance in the 78th minute as his team beat Eintracht Frankfurt 1-0 at home.

Having led the Bundesliga for the first part of the season Hamburg has slipped back to third position in recent weeks but is only one point behind the equal leaders.

In the English Premier League Mark Bosnich has had an eventful week - in mid-week he became a world champion as part of the Manchester United team that beat Palmeiras 1-0 in Tokyo to win the unofficial world club championship.

Although Ryan Giggs won the official man of the match award it was Bosnich who proved to be United's real star with a string of saves, most notably in the second half, to keep the Brazilians at bay.

Unfortunately the weekend game against Everton, which United won 5-1, didn't bring Bosnich as much joy. United lost Mark Bosnich with a hamstring strain in the opening flurry. The Australian goalkeeper limped, despairingly and in agony, towards the tunnel as Everton celebrated the opening goal.

After his tremendous resurgence over the last few weeks some time out of the game is the last thing he needs now - hopefully the injury is minor.

Mark Schwarzer was fortunate to concede only one goal as he had luck in his side on a number of occasions as he again kept goals for Middlesbrough in a 1-1 away draw with Bradford.

Schwarzer also proved Middlesbrough's shoot-out hero as the Teessiders gunned down Arsenal in dramatic style in the Worthington Cup.

The Australian saved from Nelson Vivas and Matthew Upson and saw Silvinho fire wide to pave the way for Hamilton Ricard, Christian Ziege and substitute Paul Gascoigne to win it.

Boro will now meet First Division Tranmere Rovers in the quarter finals.

Richard Johnson's Watford was not as fortunate slumping to a 5-0 defeat at the hands of Wimbledon. Johnson played the full game but at with this sort of performance the NNSW-born player will be playing in Division One next season.

Australia's other Premier League player Harry Kewell was in action during the week as well when his team Leeds played their postponed UEFA Cup game against Spartak Moscow. Kewell played the entire match and scored in the 14th minute but Leeds were beaten 2-1 in Moscow.

In the weekend game against Derby Kewell had a whale of a game in his team's last minute 0-1 away win at Derby.

Kewell came close to scoring on a few occasions and won Leeds the last gasp penalty that was converted by Ian Harte.

In the Scottish Premier League Mark Viduka was at his goal scoring best putting away another goal in a 4-0 win over Hearts. Viduka scored from the penalty spot after he was tripped inside the box. He also created the second goal for his striking partner Lubomir Moravcik.

Earlier on in the week Viduka was part of Celtic's 1-0 win over Dundee in the League Cup quarter finals. In both games Viduka played the full game.

Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar had the week off with their game cancelled on the weekend and both being rested in Rangers' 1-0 extra time loss to Aberdeen in the League Cup quarter-finals in mid-week.

In the Nationwide Division One games Manchester City has lost its lead after going down for the second game in a row - a 4-1 hammering away to Wolverhampton. For City Danny Tiatto came on in the 55th minute while Steve Corica came on for the Wolves in the 85th minute.

Kevin Muscat played a full game again and secured the points for Wolves with a tremendous fourth goal. Simon Osborn released Darren Bazeley for a fine right wing cross that was driven home left footed by full back Muscat.

Crewe Alexander halted the improving results of Crystal Palace when they had a 2-0 home win over their opponents.



Socceroo Kevin 'The Assassin' Muscat also scored on the weekend.

For Crewe Jason Kearton was responsible for the clean sheet while for Palace Craig Foster played the full game while Nick Rizzo came on in the 72nd minute.

In Queens Park Rangers' 1-0 away defeat to leaders Huddersfield George Kulscar started the game but was replaced at the start of the second half.

For West Bromwich Albion both Australians, Jason Van Blerk and Andrew McDermott, came on as subs in the 80th and 77th minute respectively as West Brom lost 2-1 away to Norwich.

Shaun Murphy was at the heart of the Sheffield United defence for the whole game as they beat Portsmouth 1-0. For the visitors Mike Panopoulos played the full game while Andy Pettersen remained on the bench.

In the Nationwide Second Division former Sydney Olympic defender Andrew Bernal played a full game as Reading had a 3-1 away loss to Bristol City, while both Tim Cahill and Olyroo Lucas Neill featured in Millwall's 2-0 home win over Cardiff.

In Croatia Josip Skoko again captained Hajduk to a 2-0 home victory over Vukovar while Ante Milicic came on as a substitute in the 66th minute as his team Rijeka was beaten 2-1 away to Varteks.

In Holland Zeljko Kalac kept goals for Roda JC in two games over the last week. In mid week they beat MVV 3-1 while on the weekend they were beaten 2-0 by PSV - Kalac was 'keeper for the full ninety minutes of both games.

In the Italian Serie B Marco Bresciano came on in the 54th minute as his team Empoli suffered another defeat away to Napoli.

Empoli are languishing towards the bottom of the table and are in danger of taking another drop in divisions after their relegation from Serie A last season.

Vince Grella was not part of Empoli's squad for this game.

In Serie A Paul Okon was not included in Florentina's squad in their 2-1 home victory over AC Milan.



Our young stars celebrate their Umbro Cup success in Singapore.

October. Four teams played in the tournament, which ran for the next three days.

The Victorian representative team performed brilliantly during these matches, which were being watched by professional scouts, including Coaching Directors and Senior Coaches from various leagues. When the team departed Singapore (via Qantas Airlines) they left victorious and carried the Umbro Cup home with them.

Congratulations to team captain Ralph Napoli who was voted player of the tournament by the overseas coaches.

Congratulations also to Yumal Kumar who was runner up, and Chris Greechan for third. This tour was unforgettable and valuable experience for everyone who took part.

To play in an international tournament is every soccer player's dream, and to have this opportunity for under 14s can only strengthen their future skill and confidence.

The Four Diegos with Adelaide Force's IVAN ZELIC



This week we sit back, relax and share a Soft Sombrero Moment with our guest of the week, Inside Soccer please welcome Olyroo and Adelaide Force defender Ivan Zelic

Diegos: "In the off-season you moved from the heart of the NSL galaxy, the Canberra Cosmos to the venue of the next Star Wars extravaganza - the Adelaide Force. How have you coped with the change and are you sick of people passing you in the street and saying 'May the Force be with you'?"

Zelic: "I've coped well. I'm very

great helping me find my way around. With such a friendly group of people it's not so hard to settle in."

Diegos: "Playing for the Canberra Cosmos last season must have been like playing for the Washington Generals against the Harlem Globetrotters. A record 16 losses in succession is a statistic that would conjure up nightmares for most players. What has it been like crossing from a team with a losing record to a team that is used to winning?"

Zelic: "Mentally it has made a huge difference. When you are with a club that is having a losing streak, you get into a losing frame of mind.

The one good thing that came from that experience was that it made me a stronger person.

I think that having been through something like that prepares me for the worse at my new club.

I now have the determination to never let that happen again whilst I'm at Adelaide."

Diegos: "You have described Adelaide Force's legendary coach, Zoran Matic, as a type of father figure for the players.

What sort of a Dad is he? A 'lovey dovey, fairy floss at Luna Park' type Dad or a 'you played badly, go to your room' type?"

Zelic: "Many people might find this surprising, but he's actually a bit of both. However not many people get to see Zoran's soft side because he doesn't like people knowing that he has one.

I guess I'm lucky that, playing in his side, I get to see the Jekyll and Hyde of Zoran."

Diegos: "Many younger siblings have had to go through life in the shadow of their more high profile older brothers or sisters. Danni Minogue coped with her sis-

ter Kylie's fame by getting breast implants, a new nose and a bottle of hair rinse.

How have you coped with people continuously referring to you as Ned Zelic's younger brother?"

Zelic: "Well the biggest hurdle was to get Zoran Matic to stop calling me Ned!

I've heard people say that the only reason I'm at the club, is because of my surname. I think that comments like that are bit unfair.

I'm a completely different person to my brother and in fact the only common thread is that we both play soccer. I've also tried to expose my name in different areas such as modeling so that people can make the distinction."

Diegos: "How many times has your mum and dad made you sit in front of the TV with the rest of the family to watch THAT goal (Ned's goal that clinched qualification for Australia at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics)?

Zelic: "I'm the one that makes them watch it over and over again. That was a very special moment for our family.

No one can deny that it was a fantastic goal. The whole family stayed up to watch the game.

I think the neighbors thought we had won tattslotto with all the yelling and screaming.

The only disappointing thing was that Mum made me go to school the next day."

Diegos: "In this day and age of full time professional soccer most players don't have time for anything else. Not so

yourself. It seems that you are forging a quite lucrative career in modelling. What's it like getting undressed in a changeroom that smells more like rose petals and perfume rather than one that is infested with finea and smells of foul body odour?"



Force's Ivan Zelic

Zelic: "The biggest difference apart from the odour is the sight. There obviously aren't as many hairy backs in the model's changeroom. But the better smell is a welcome relief."

Diegos: "You are one of our star Olyroos. The Olympic soccer team will kick off the whole Sydney 2000 celebration at the MCG in September next

year. How's it make you feel being one of the first to sing Advance Australia Fair prior to the heat of battle at the Olympics next year?"

Zelic: "In terms of a soccer player's dreams, being at the MCG with 100,000 screaming fans is an absolute fairytale."

The Olympics really speak for themselves. I'm very excited about our game being the first in the 2000 Games. It's a shame that we have to wait so long for it to happen. I wish it would come sooner."

Diegos: "Thanks Ivan. Good luck with the soccer and the modeling. Find out whether there's a chance that the Diegos with their hairy backs and chilli breath, might get a gig with your modelling troupe? Adios Amigo."

Zelic: "Thanks Diegos. I'll look into it for you. In the meantime, a tip ... start waxing. Adios Amigos!"



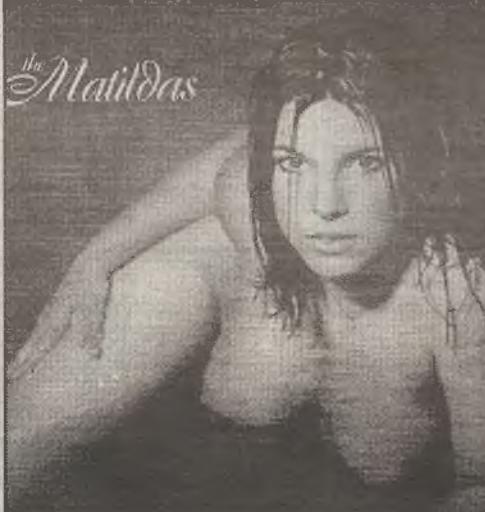
Ivan Zelic: "I get to see the jekyll and hyde of Zoran Matic" (above).

happy with the way I have settled in to the club. There hasn't been a huge difference between the two clubs, which is good.

The players at Adelaide have been

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SITTER! NUDE?

Sitter! assistant editor Grant Stantiall's decision to pose nude for a provocative sports fanzine has received a mixed reaction from top New Zealand soccer internet mailing list people. Featuring a full frontal cover shot, the fanzine is a controversial attempt to extract the juice on the recent Matildas calendar released world-wide. Also, the fanzine is looking for unique ways to boost its readership. Stantiall's wife Cathy said "Personally, I have no problem with Grant getting his gear off provided it is done in a tasteful way". She went on to say "I think it's a forward step and is in no way demeaning to men. I can see more men getting out there and posing nude." And if you think they're joking think again. They are dead serious! Still on NZ and Kingz are due to announce a signing from overseas, but no idea who...apart from maybe Simon Elliott from Los Angeles Galaxy on a loan deal?

WHO WAS THAT?

Yes it's almost Christmas but we must inform you that one of our operatives had the pleasure (I) of seeing a well-known SBS TV personality 'pissed to his eyeballs and ogling all the women who went by' at the bar during last weekend's round in Sydney. She should know, she was being ogled herself. Cheers anyway for a decade of Soccer Beautiful Soccer at the SBS, and here's to more of the same in the Millennium.

COSMOS STAR GETS MARRIED

One of S-news' fav players in Canberra, Gabriel Gonzales, is getting hitched. And with any luck his Mum will not give the pics to New Idea, but to us. All the best to Gabriel and his childhood sweetheart Anna. That means there's just Ivo de Jesus and Harry James left in the flat in Canberra. "I'll try to influence them two to get married to their girlfriends as well" said Gonzales. The ceremony is this Saturday. Gonzales won't be playing for Cosmos this weekend.

WELL-DONE THE AUSTRALIAN

In case you haven't noticed, The Australian has greatly improved its level of soccer coverage. The new sports editor we think deserves a pat on the back. Its coverage is as good, even better, than the SMH.

TONE YOU'VE GOT SPIRIT

S-news recently made mention of Tony Perinich's pick-up truck. Top wheels but sadly the Spirit striker has gone upmarket and yuppie with an appropriately named Spirit Passeo. Next thing you know he'll be wearing Armani suits and Issey Miyake after shave? Nah, not Tone.

MOVING ON UP

Just as Tony Perinich is moving on up, so is S-news and its ugly sister Inside Soccer. We are moving to bigger and better offices right in the heart of Parramatta. Our new postal address is PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124.

WELL-DONE THE AUSTRALIAN POWERING ABOUT THE PLACE

It's great to see the Power players getting out and about promoting themselves. This Wed they are at Northmead High at lunchtime, Thursday at the opening of PJ Gallaghers, previously known as the General Bourke (has S-news been invited??) from 6pm and Friday the New Children's Hospital at Westmead. Later that night they play at home against Newcastle Breakers in the big NSW derby. That will be worth seeing and good on ya for doing your bit for the community. Power also should have Japanese trialist Kensuke Kagami playing in its youth game prior to the main match at 7.30pm. Power promotions sound similar to what Perth Glory does, their weekly fax sheet is chockers with personal appearances (see Greg Blake's piece on five for his view of what Glory has achieved.) on radio shows and in schools.

IS 20 YEARS TOO LONG TO HOLD A GRUDGE?

In Studs Up fanzine here's a beauty from their 'Dear Studs Up' page. A publication in the 80s printed this as part of their match report. 'The fiery incident that brought about two send-offs was started with a late tackle by Jozo Antolovic which caught Bonacic and infuriated the Footscray midfielder to the extent that he chased him for twenty years.' Like we say, it's a great fanzine.

E-MAIL THE SOCCEROOS

You can now E our Socceroos at socceroos@webcity.com.au. Speaking of the national teams, there will be four nation tournament for the Olyroos in January, then another in May, both in Australia. At this point there is not likely to be any Sydney games.

NSL TOP SCORERS:

PAUL FOSTER (STRIKERS) 9 GOALS

ALEX MOREIRA (Carlton) 8
MICHAEL CURCIJA (SMel) 6
JOEL GRIFFITHS (Power) 6

Cumulative attendances after round ten:

99/00: 444,623

98/99: 431,842



Carlton's samba king Alex Moreira is back after his hat-trick against Cosmos.
Pic by Michael Cronin.

Round eleven preview

Round 11's blockbuster will be at Perth Oval when the home side takes on South Melbourne. After the Victorians' 4-2 home win over Power, some of the shock of that previous round's 5-1 away loss to Brisbane will have dissipated.

It's now time South stood up and be counted and there is no better place to do that than a packed Perth Oval.

With the World Club Championships next month the side needs a real confidence boost while they sit in the unusual position of outside the top six. And the rarified atmosphere of Glory's home ground gives them a timely taste of what to expect in Brazil in five weeks' time.

Perth for their part are on a roll; three games three wins with ten goals scored in their last two home matches. It seems coach Bernd Stange has learnt from his

self-confessed misjudgment last season, when he may have trained his side too strongly in the heat of the west during the summer months.

It was around this time last year the slump began. He is too canny to fall down this year. An expected 15,000 will give their typically vociferous backing to Glory.

As Greg Blake said on page five, this, like all Glory home games, will be an event.

Meanwhile this Friday night there is an attractive fixture with the Breakers, fresh from their satisfying win over the previously unbeaten Strikers, visit Parra Power, while on Sunday the Kingz visit Marconi Stallions' home base.

With the Kingz you never quite know what to expect, while with Marconi they will be looking to atone after they lost at Spirit last week.

team of the week



Lee Sterrey's (left) Newcastle Breakers for being the side that finally broke Brisbane's impressive unbeaten run of nine games, in front of a good crowd of over 5,000. For some of the players there was extra significance in this win. See page 11 to find out why.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"The similarity between Phar Lap's head and that of Paul Wade is striking!"

C7 commentator Greg Blake on lookalikes in soccer. He's right you know.

"Amy Taylor for President."

One (unnamed) republican journalist at the Matildas launch.

"If you've got it, flaunt it"

Matilda Bridgette Star.

"It doesn't take a Rhodes scholar to figure out that the execution was diabolical."

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos after the loss to the Knights.

Shooting practice this week??

"If it comes to a street fight we'd be prepared to street fight, and if we lose some composure we are going to be there to tough it out."

Breakers' Lee Sterrey on hangin' tough with Newcastle

"(It was) a bit of entertainment, and we're in the entertainment business."

South coach Ange 'Hollywood' Postecoglou

"Women's soccer will make more money from this calendar than it has done in 26 years."

AWSA chief executive officer Warren Fisher on 'that' calendar.

Produced with the assistance of McRopod Concept Sports Systems - www.planet.net.au/~mcrpod.

Kossie just can't win in Newcastle



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2

Roberts 45, Buonavoglia 58

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

Moore o.g. 51

Friday night at Breakers Stadium, Sydney. Crowd: 5,027

By Michael Kmet

The Newcastle Breakers broke through for their first home win of the season at the expense of the previously unbeaten Brisbane Strikers. Brisbane was a shade of the team that demolished South Melbourne last week as Newcastle controlled the game from the first whistle to the last.

It was one of Newcastle's best performances at home and certainly the best performance this year. Their mobility and penetration were superb, while their defensive effort was by far the best of the season.

Coach Lee Sterrey's tactic of retaining last week's man-of-the-match against Canberra Glenn Moore at sweeper, and moving skipper Shane Pryce to right back paid off, with a Brisbane attack force that had previously scored seventeen goals looking impotent and powerless against the Newcastle brick wall.

Paul Foster was seeking an NSL goal scoring record for most continuous goals scored yet he did not have a real opportunity all game and was effectively marked out of the game by Newcastle's underrated stopper Todd McManus.

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey was pleased with his team's effort. "It was a good injection", Sterrey said. "We started off very well the first ten or fifteen minutes.

"We bombed a couple over the top where we thought we'd catch them square at the back, and we got behind them a couple times with 'Harps' (Andy Harper) and Buonavoglia.

"It was an arm wrestle throughout the game because we play the same 4-4-2 system with a flat back four. 'Robbo' (Andy Roberts) scored a goal at just the right time before the half-time break... it's a character win. It shows what we had in this room all along."

Sterrey while happy with the Breakers' performance concedes the team is still not playing at its best. "It's getting there. For me we're seventy to eighty percent there. There are still the new faces with people knowing where to go and what ball to play at right times.

"The good sides like the Marconis

and South Melbourne have the composure and still dictate to you when they are up.

"We have to learn that, but in saying that we learnt a lot about hanging in tight last year. If it comes to a street fight we'd be prepared to street fight, and if we lose some composure we are going to be there to tough it out."

Brisbane coach John Kosmina was conspicuously absent from the post match press conference. Looking more respectable in his black suit and black tie then in his Newcastle coaching days, Kosmina was openly jeered by the Newcastle faithful. Newcastle people have long memories and haven't easily forgotten how Kosmina publicly criticised many of his then Newcastle players in the media, and even on several occasions criticised the mentality of the people of Newcastle - calling them lazy and unproductive. For the Breakers' supporters on Friday night this has easily been their most satisfying win of the season.

Newcastle's away win against Canberra last week seemed to give the Breakers a confidence injection to attack early. Johnny Buonavoglia, only rated a thirty percent chance of playing earlier in the week through an ankle injury, caused havoc at the Brisbane defence. His mobility and pace, along with winger Brad Wieczorek, gave the Breakers an attacking edge throughout the game.

In the 7th minute it was some great ball work from Buonavoglia who put Andy Roberts through but his well hit shot sailed over the bar. Two minutes later Shane Pryce hit a long ball to Buonavoglia on the left. Buonavoglia cut inside Brisbane captain Stuart McLaren but his shot also sailed over the bar.

It was all Newcastle at this stage. In the 13th minute a clever back flick by Glenn Sprod located Brad Wieczorek on the left. He crossed to Mark Wilson who shot straight to keeper Clint Bolton.

Despite the Breakers' pressure it could have been Brisbane taking the lead in the 38th minute. A Nick Meredith cross turned into a goalmouth scramble where Brisbane's Wade Baldwin's left foot shot from ten yards somehow went over the

crossbar.

For the rest of the half it was all Newcastle. In the 40th minute a Vasko Trpcavski cross found a free Shane Pryce just outside the box. However his shot just shaded the left hand post.

Five minutes later the Breakers hit the lead. A precise fifty yard ball by Glenn Moore hit the feet of Brad Wieczorek whose perfectly executed cross was headed home by Andy Roberts.

Roberts was in perfect position after sprinting nearly forty yards to meet the ball, and he made a forty-yard sprint back to give Kosmina a personal salute.

Half time seemed to be the tonic Brisbane needed and they came out with a new found enthusiasm. Minutes into the half and it was inexplicable how Brisbane did not score. Brisbane's Peter Grierson headed into the cross bar from just four yards.

The ensuing scramble gave Stuart McLaren the perfect opportunity to head from one yard, but somehow his effort hit the post and the rebound fell to a relieved Bob Catlin.

Three minutes later the Strikers did equalise when Nick Meredith rocketed a very long throw into the Breakers' six-yard box. Newcastle sweeper Glenn Moore tried to clear but his header beat Catlin.

The Breakers hit back in the 58th minute in incredible circumstances. A Newcastle corner was saved by the inform Clint Bolton. His long throw caught Newcastle napping and the Strikers attacked with four men against two.

Nick Meredith squandered the numerical advantage by being too selfish and trying to beat the Breakers' defence by himself, instead of passing to his obvious vacant teammates.

From this play the ball fell to Newcastle's substitute Damien Smith. Smith played the ball to Harper to the right. Harper cut in and played an exquisite through ball to the rampant Buonavoglia who coolly rounded Bolton and side footed the Breakers to an amaz-



MATCH STATS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod (Smith 46), Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek (Juchniewicz 87), Trpcavski (Tancheski 63), Harper, Moore



BRISBANE STRIKERS

Bolton, Gwynne, Bell, Dutton (Smeltz 66), Pilic, Foster, Dwyer (Steffanutto 85), McLaren, Gnerson, Meredith, Baldwin (Harms 46) Yellow
Breakers: Wieczorek 61, Harper 83
Strikers: Meredith 38, Bell 39, Dutton 56

Best Players

3 **BRAD WIECZOREK (BREAKERS)**
2 Johnny Buonavoglia (Breakers)
1 Andy Roberts (Breakers)

Referee: Brett Hugo

ing victory.

The rest of the game saw the Breakers shut up shop with the only real opportunity falling to Damien Smith, but he could not convert from just outside the box.

Newcastle captain Shane Pryce was thankful for the three points. "It was definitely a win that we needed. Even though it got back to one all I always thought we would finish on top. It was that sort atmosphere and feeling with the players, so I couldn't be more happier."

Pryce showed why he is such a respected sporting personality in Newcastle by stating that he would play left wing if it were best for the team when quizzed on his positional change to right back.

Brisbane is winless in seven matches at Breakers Stadium and this is Kosmina's second unsuccessful attempt for points in Newcastle.

This has led one scally-wag in the crowd to suggest that Kosmina cannot win in Newcastle, whether he is coaching the home team or the away team.

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Hillsborough Disaster: The Truth	\$28
Many Soccer coaching books/videos	\$10-50
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Monday

A new day for Knights under Vlado Vanis?



WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1

Souris 24

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2

Cervinski 64, Kelic 68

Friday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd 3,414

MATCH STATS:



WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Pogliacomi, Souris (Surjan 64), Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Young, Chipperfield, Harlock, Huxley, Petrovski (Masi 70)



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Rajher (Magdic 59), Kovacevic, Vukadin, Nastevski (Trupkovic 80), Kelic, Kiratzoglou, Susa, Reda (Silic 58), Abbas, Cervinski.

Yellows

Wolves: Souris 33, Masi 82
Knights: Kovacevic 29, Kiratzoglou 88

Best Players

3 - A. CERVINSKI (KNIGHTS)
2 - Chipperfield (Wollongong)
1 - Kovacevic (Melbourne Knights)

Referee:

Mark Shields

By Stephen Webb

The loud music blaring at the end of this game drowned out the angry murmurs and boozing from the shocked home crowd.

The Wolves sheepishly acknowledged their supporters as they left the field - but there wasn't much left of the already disappointing crowd.

Friday night mustn't be good for football in Wollongong - for fans or results.

Manager Graeme Haney said before the match he wanted a big score and a big crowd. Despite some frenetic play and a host of activities for kids, including amusement rides, there was precious little of either

The mood of the after-match media conference was similar to that which followed Wolves' match against Northern Spirit a few weeks earlier. Only this time the roles were reversed

This time the visiting coach sat back, humbly pleased with his team's three points, while Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos tried to come to terms with an ignominious defeat.

There were ominous signs an upset was on the cards when Wolves went in at half time with only a defender's goal. Knights took advantage of a Wolves flat patch midway through the second half and, with two goals in five minutes and stout defending thereafter, humiliated the favourites.

In the battle of the Cervinski brothers - Wolves' David and Knights' Adrian - the Melbourne player came away with glory. They had few personal encounters, however. George Souris had the job of marking the Knights forward and could only keep him under control on several occasions by fouling him.

Wolves had the running in the first half, though. They ran. They had authority in midfield. And they often made the Knights defenders look foolish. But they were foiled by the woodwork and abominable finishing.

The first half was fast and furious. Wolves dominated but Knights had their moments.

In the fifth minute Young put Petrovski through down the right to the by-line. His cross to the other side of goal left Harlock too little room to move. From the clearance, Souris fouled Adrian Cervinski two metres outside the Wolves' penalty area. The fierce free kick from Zeljko Susa saw Les Pogliacomi, playing his 50th NSL game, make a diving save to his right.

Four minutes later, Wollongong had a free kick that again found Petrovski down the right. His shot rebounded from the keeper for a Wolves corner.

Petrovski was soon the recipient of one of an endless supply of crosses from Chipperfield. This time Petrovski bumped his volley into the ground and bounced it over the goal.

After beating more defenders down the left, Chipperfield crossed in the 16th minute, this time to Horsley who headed onto the crossbar.

A minute later a scramble was cleared from the Wolves' penalty area. The ball eventually came to Petrovski running into the Knights' area but Abbas provided enough pressure to thwart the shot.

Wolves' next assault began with Horsley turning three opponents ten metres in the Knights' half. A long ball down the right touchline found Petrovski. He crossed to the near post where Young tried a cheeky flick which didn't fool keeper Martin John.

The end-to-end action continued, with Susa chasing a long ball into the Wolves' penalty area and Pogliacomi having to bundle it away.

This sent Chipperfield racing down the right where he won a corner. His kick brushed past Horsley's head to Souris whose header put Wolves in the lead.

Knights still pumped balls toward the Wolves' goal. In the 26th minute

Pogliacomi had to catch high under pressure from Ivan Kelic. His clearance went straight downfield to Horsley who turned Rajher and shot left-footed without enough force to trouble the keeper.

Ante Kovacevic, whose impact was increasingly noticeable as the game wore on, earned the first yellow card for bowling over Chipperfield who was making a blazing run at goal down the centre of the pitch when Young on his right was a much better option.

Kovacevic made a crucial last second intercept of Paul Reid's free kick, just as Horsley appeared to have been put through with only the keeper to beat.

The clearance only found Young who passed to Horsley who gave Petrovski a gem of a chance right in front. The resulting header was touched over by John.

In the 32nd minute Petrovski turned and ran past Susa and Abbas only to get caught by them as he came to the by-line. The clearance sent Adrian Cervinski into attack. This time Souris' foul on him earned the Wollongong defender a yellow card. Kovacevic hit a dipping free kick over the crossbar.

Two minutes later Neil Harlock hit a free kick for Wolves which David Cervinski headed over.

Knights had a flourish just before half time. When Souris fouled Kelic, Adrian Cervinski's free kick was on target but easily held by Pogliacomi.

Cervinski then found himself in shooting position on the right of Wolves' penalty area. Pogliacomi had to go to ground to stop it.

Then a ball from Kovacevic found Cervinski who gave Kelic a chance to shoot wide, left of the goal.

Knights' best shot of the half came in time added on. Rajher on the left crossed to Cervinski whose fine effort sent Pogliacomi leaping backward to touch the ball over the crossbar.

The second half started with Wollongong looking to score.

A Reid corner in the 47th minute gave Young a header onto the crossbar. From the rebound Young shot left of goal.

Four minutes later Young, running into the box, couldn't quite control a tantalising 40-metre pass from David Huxley.

In the 53rd minute Chipperfield broke down the left and crossed to Reid on the edge of Knights' area. Reid took too long on the ball but his shot was deflected for a corner from which Souris eventually shot wide.

Then Chipperfield had a horror miss. As he did so often, Young led a Wolves break and dropped the ball down to the feet of Chipperfield. Wolves' speedster breezed past Abbas into the box and had time to lay the ball off for himself. But he still shot over.

In the 57th minute Huxley fed Horsley who turned and shot firmly into the body of keeper Martin John.

Then Chipperfield, again down the left to the by-line, pulled the ball back for David Cervinski who hit the side netting.

From the goal kick Knights fired a great through ball for Kelic in Wolves' penalty area. His cross was cut out by a sliding Robbie Stanton.

Knights made two substitutions, bringing on the fresh legs of Mark Silic and Paul Magdic. From that point Wolves were out of the game. They lost concentration as Antony Surjan waited for several minutes on the sideline to replace Souris. When finally play halted it was for a Knights free kick. Wolves kept the defender on. But neither he nor a diving Pogliacomi could stop Adrian Cervinski's



The Knight in shining armour: ex-player Vlado Vanis has a 100% record with the Knights.

diving header on a cross from Magdic.

Four minutes later Knights had their second. Though Kelic needed two goes at it.

A cross from Kiratzoglou evaded all but Kelic waiting unmarked at the far post.

His first stab only resulted in the ball bouncing back to him from the woodwork.

He wasn't going to miss such a simple chance twice.

Esala Masi was into the action almost as soon as he came on for Petrovski.

Heading on to Young from midfield he went for the return which came again via Chipperfield at the left by-line. It looked like the header went in but only fell from the post to the keeper.

In the 86th minute Masi played a one-two with Young whose rising left foot shot was well saved by John.

A minute later Abbas had to bicycle kick the ball from Masi who was chasing an up-and-under in to the penalty area.

As the end of regular time approached Stanton pumped a long ball from inside his own half to Young in Knights' box. Young pulled it back for Reid who shot over.

The last chance fell to Knights. The Kelic shot was pushed away by Pogliacomi.

Knights had succeeded in holding Wolves out and even providing some spark of their own. Even Abbas, who in the first half was turned inside out, in the last quarter of the match was closing down the Wolves' attackers and putting them off their game.

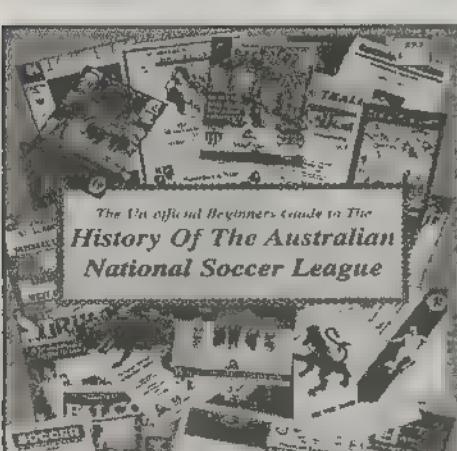
Knights coach Vlado Vanis said he was happy to come away with three points. "If I had come to me and offered a point before the game I would have grabbed it with both hands," he said. He was especially happy since confidence was down when he came to the club.

"Can you ask for better?" he asked. "Two games; six points. I think nobody can."

Theodorakopoulos could only tally the missed chances: "It doesn't take a Rhodes Scholar to figure out the execution was diabolical. Other coaches have teams and they create three and four chances and they're happy. My team creates ten."

So what's better, someone who creates three or four and wins 2-1 or someone who creates ten and loses 2-1. I know what the answer is. I'd rather win."

A win for the home side, in their 500th NSL game, might have seen them sitting in second place - for a few days at least. But if the fans wouldn't turn up when Wolves looked like contenders, what will they be thinking now?



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Kingz Savaged by hungry Falcons

FOOTBALL KINGZ 1

Middleby 16

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

MacNichol 50

Friday night at North Harbour Stadium, Auckland. Crowd 2,500



MATCH STATS:



Kingz: Batty; Vicelich, Bunce (Perry, 83), Jones, Stergiopoulos (Van Steeden 81), Middleby, Ngata, Jackson, Mennillo, de Jong, Riddle (Rufer 46)



Falcons: Jevdjevic, Marcina, Gotis, Savage, Puca; Hutchinson, Durakovic, Bell, Vargas; Nilo (Kakos, 78),

MacNichol

Yellows:

Kingz: Bunce (32), Middleby (46)
Falcons: M. Gotis (86)

Best Players:

3. SAVAGE (GIPPSLAND)
2. Batty (Kingz)
1. de Jong (Kingz)

Referee: Derek Rugg

By Jeremy Ruane

Post-World Cup blues enveloped both the Football Kingz and the visiting Gippsland Falcons at North Harbour Stadium on last Friday, as the outstanding success which was New Zealand '99 proved too much for both teams to live up to.

A paltry 2,500 fans - a mere ten percent of the stadium's capacity - turned out to watch this National Soccer League encounter between two sides who enjoyed welcome victories in their respective round nine fixtures, but scarcely looked like delivering a repeat performance in an at times dour tenth round duel which, somewhat fittingly, ended in a 1-1 draw.

The home team began brightly, barely five minutes having passed when Fred de Jong fed the overlapping Robbie Middleby on the right, whose neat first-time pass allowed Ivan Vicelich to launch a twenty-five yard drive which curled past Bojo Jevdjevic's right-hand upright.

The Falcons stretched their wings six minutes later, Mehmed Durakovic's free-kick being flicked on by John Hutchinson into the path of the lively Juan Nilo.

The ground announcer was denied the opportunity to say 'Juan Nilo makes it 1-0 to Gippsland in the eleventh minute'

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curler from de Jong out of the air, following a fine move featuring Vicelich, half-time substitute Wynton Rufer and Jackson, the Falcons counter-attacked down the right, led by Clayton Bell. His cross wasn't dealt with by the home team's defence, allowing MacNichol to steal in on the far post and steer home the equaliser.

Rocked by this strike, the Kingz took a while to recover their composure, with Mennillo offering the first hint that the home team were getting back into the contest in the 62nd minute, only for Jevdjevic, who saw the midfielder's rasping twenty yard strike late as it came through a plethora of players, to produce a quality save low to his right.

Meanwhile, Gippsland, a team which has generally struggled to score goals in the NSL in recent seasons, showed little cutting edge in attack to indicate that such impotence in front of goal would gain an instant cure from a trip to Junior World Cup country!

That said, Brian MacNichol looked the one player most likely to engineer an opening for the visitors, and in the 33rd minute, only the fingertips of Batty prevented him from doing so, the goalkeeper tipping the striker's rising twenty yard volley onto the crossbar and away to safety.

This made the Kingz realise that sitting on a one-goal lead was perhaps not in their best interests, and they proceeded to up the tempo a notch in an effort to double their lead before the interval.

A Ngata cross to the far post in the 35th minute bisected Vicelich and Che Bunce as they homed in on the sphere, while de Jong's desire for victory was evident for all to see three minutes later, as he tackled back to win possession, then instantly released Middleby down the right.

He delivered a delicious cross to the far side of the penalty area where the unmarked Chris Jackson was lurking with intent, but before the ball could reach him, Adrian Savage - a solid performer throughout for the Falcons - produced a vital headed clearance to relieve the danger for his side.

The Kingz were guilty of spurning any number of scoring opportunities from free-kicks in this match, with the delivery of the ball into the danger zone rarely passing the first line of defenders.

A variation they tried four minutes before the interval succeeded in breaching the Falcons' rearguard, but Mennillo did not strike his shot cleanly, consequently giving Jevdjevic little cause for concern.

After the Falcons had scrambled clear de Jong's header from an inviting Middleby corner, the visitors spurned a great chance to level matters just before the break.

Nilo and MacNichol had just Batty to beat between them, but the former's unselfishness proved costly, as Bunce was able to intercept his pass and ensure his side a 1-0 lead at the interval.

It was an advantage the Kingz were to enjoy for just five more minutes. After Jevdjevic had plucked a twenty yard



Kingz scorer Robbie Middleby.

down the left with just Batty to beat.

The goalkeeper hurtled out of his area to curtail the threat, but the midfielder skipped past the advancing custodian, only to immediately stumble and fall with the gaping goal at his mercy.

This was to prove the visitors' last chance, while the home team's final fling at breaking the deadlock came four minutes from the end, as Batty sent the ball forward to Mennillo. After a neat one-two with de Jong, a cross to the far post for Vicelich ensued, allowing the All White defender to head the ball down to Rufer

But before Oceania's Player of the Century could pounce, in stepped Savage to avert the danger, and ensure a final 1-1 scoreline.

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NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

Moss 59

MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, Sydney. Crowd 9,089

MATCH STATS

NORTHERN SPIRIT: J Perosh, M Rudan, G Arnold, J Sobczyk, P Moss, R Enes (M Cunico 76), Bingley, T Cranney, A Griffiths, R Slater (D Culina 86), A Saad (T Perinch 84).



MARCONI STALLIONS: M Turnbull, C Gibson, M Smith, V Zoric, B Farah, B Renaud, A Duric (S Junior 63), K Trajanovski, D Invincible, B Maloney, F Awaritefe

Yellows:
Spirit: Robbie Slater 33
Marconi: Chad Gibson 88

Best Player
3 JOHN PEROSH (SPIRIT)
2 Francis Awaritefe (Marconi)
1 Abbas Saad (Spirit)

Referee: Gerry Connolly

By Paul Goodwin

Spurred on by another highly vocal home crowd and with the unique inhabitants of Spirit Point in full voice, Sydney soccer's out-of-form Northern Spirit earned the plaudits with a hard fought 1-0 win over fierce local rivals Marconi at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

The size of the crowd may have been disappointing, but for all that there was not a seat to be found in the popular Bob Stand, where the massive Spirit flag was unfurled and held aloft to greet the goal and ultimately the victory that the eager fans had been calling for.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold, having vowed three weeks earlier to play no more and concentrate on his coaching, strapped on his boots again.

He spoke after the game about his reasons for doing so, taking heed of the words of a fellow whose opinion he has the highest regard for.

He decided on the Tuesday that he would play once more and while he would not reveal that man's identity it seems clear that it was one of his own players who did the urging as he added later that he would continue to play as long as the men in his team felt he was still needed.

With Arnold alongside youngster Jack Sobczyk, who had another fine game and the steady Mark Rudan, the defence led from the front, while players like Bingley, Enes and Moss, whose roles in the past have often been purely defensive, were allowed to contribute to attacking manoeuvres with increasing confidence.

This defence was under enormous pressure in the second half, especially once Spirit had taken the lead and the visiting Marconi were desperately unlucky not to score on a number of occasions.

That they did not do so was partly due to some of their shots hitting the left post and partly to the acrobatics and initiative of John Perosh in the Spirit goal

who grows in stature with each game he plays.

Arnold asked his youngest player Adam Griffiths to stick to the mobile Marconi skipper and Socceroo, Brad Maloney, like a limpet and that ploy worked a treat.

When Maloney did break the shackles he caused a lot of trouble, but with Griffiths working overtime those moments were few and far between.

The first half was ponderous and lacked any flowing football, as both sides were very wary of one another.

It was one of those typical games that needed a goal to bring it to life and that certainly happened when crowd favourite and staunch club-man Phil Moss connected with a superb drive from 25 yards out, on the right of the area, at the 59 minute mark.

Matt Bingley had done extremely well to get past Danny Invincible on the left and got to the byline before cutting the ball back to the centre. The cross was clearly intended for Robbie Enes, but the ball eluded him and Moss was

There were isolated chances in the first half to bring the crowd to their feet, Invincible got past his man on the left and set up Brendan Renaud for a shot which went just wide in the 2nd minute and Enes won the ball for Spirit in a fierce tackle and laid on a pass for Griffiths whose angled shot from the left in the 11th scraped across the face of goal and missed the right post by inches.

Renaud did well eight minutes later to give his marker the slip, again on the left, getting the ball over from the byline for Francis Awaritefe to head well, forcing Perosh to push the ball up and claim it before it could sneak under the bar.

From a Vlado Zoric cross in the 36th skipper Maloney nodded the ball against the left post, while at the other end Saad headed just over a minute later.

Generally, however, the first half was a dogged affair and it was well into the second period before things really woke up.

Saad was displaying some nice footwork and providing some excellent passes in his approach work, as he lifted his own game a notch when the players returned to the action. He was Spirit's most creative player for long periods and his cross in the 54th almost allowed Matthew Bingley to break the deadlock at the near post, the ball just going wide.

On the counter attack from this move Marconi won the ball and Zoric looked well placed to score, but some hesitation by the midfielder and good anticipation by Perosh denied both he and Awaritefe in the follow up, from spoiling the Spirit party.

With that let-off behind them the home side sallied forth once more and it was a firm tackle which ensured that Bingley got the better of his man as he laid on the pass for what proved the ultimate winner.

What followed was a desperate rear-guard action as Spirit went about proving that their defence was equal to the task of holding out for another half an hour and still being able to get attacks going into the bargain.

A Maloney free kick from 40 yards was just seen in time by Perosh who finger-tipped the ball over, as it dipped late, in the 70th minute.

Soon after, Awaritefe turned smartly inside the box and shot powerfully requiring Perosh to again tip over the bar.

Perosh showed his ability to read the game by racing off his line to confront Kris Trajanovski who was fed a great threaded pass by Invincible and looked certain to go on and score.

Perosh made a superb save, smothering the danger in similar fashion to Spirit understudy and Joeys keeper, Jess Van Stratten in the Under 17 World



John Perosh: his stunning form is a Spirit favourite Paul Henderson on

left unmarked and picked his spot in the top left corner to perfection. So sweetly was the ball struck that Marconi's promising keeper Michael Turnbull would scarcely have seen it as it whistled past him into the roof of the net.

The goal came at the Bob Stand end and brought the house down. Many of the supporters have taken Moss to their hearts for his great commitment and honest endeavour, not to mention that he is a local lad made good and the fans had seen him score 'screamers' in trial games before the season got under way.

They were absolutely delighted.

The goal galvanised Marconi and they threw everything at the Spirit defence and were desperately unlucky not to find the net themselves.

Newcomer Alex Duric, cleared to start just before the game, was looking lively in the first half as he made good ground down the left flank and put together some nice passes and crosses. He was replaced soon after Spirit had scored, making way for Fijian youngster Sauturaga Junior.



Spirit's Phil Moss: the former journalist wrote his own match-winning script last Friday.

Championships a week earlier, when confronted by the rampaging Brazilians.

Solid Marconi defender and one-time striker, Mike Smith, smashed the right post with a thunderous 30 yard drive in the 83rd, with the keeper beaten and as Maloney came in for the crumbs Perosh had to be at his best to again block the danger.

Renaud also rocked the bar with another long range shot only a minute later.

Spirit went close themselves in the 86th when Bingley could only find the side netting from a Moss cross.

Trajanovski and Awaritefe again burst through to face the keeper in the 88th, but were thwarted by more good work by Perosh.

Chad Gibson earned the only yellow card by a Marconi player when he cynically brought down substitute Tony Perinch who looked to be on a direct path to goal down the left, the Spirit man regaining his feet and setting sail for goal once more, only to be dragged back for the free kick to be taken.

A very awkward deep cross from the right by Gibson somehow eluded all at the far post as the ball hit the angle of the left upright and went just over, with Perosh scrambling and lurking Marconi players unable to make contact.

It was a dramatic finale to what was a game that grew in intensity as its end drew near.

Another chapter in the expanding story of cross-town rivalries between these two sides that should bring the crowds back in greater numbers next time as these clubs meet twice again this season under the uneven format adopted by the National League in this campaign.

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Moreira and Markovski end Carlton slump

CARLTON 5

Marth 22, Moreira 47, 89, 93, Thompson 83

CANBERRA COSMOS 1

De Jesus 86

Friday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd 2,166



MATCH STATS

CARLTON:

Anastasiadis
McPherson, Atkinson,
Douglas, Anthopoulos,
Thompson (Della Rocca
95), Terminello Marth,
Lapsansky, Markovski (Motsopoulos
75), Moreira



CANBERRA: Barlow
Hooker, Popovich, Burt
(Arranz 71), Milin,
James, Winnie, Potak
(Kolpak 80), Gonzalez
(Prenzski 41), De
Jesus, Watkins



Yellows:

Carlton: Lapsansky, Moreira
Canberra: De Jesus, Burt, James,
Arranz

Reds:

Canberra: Winnie (64)

Best Players:

3 JOHN MARKOVSKI (CARL)
2. David Terminello (Carl)
1. Archie Thompson (Carl)

Referee:

Con Diomis

By Kevin Christopher

Carlton rebounded from successive losses in spectacular fashion on Friday night with a comprehensive 5-1 mauling of Canberra Cosmos.

Such was the Blues' dominance, it would not have been unfair had the final margin been much wider, but after picking up just one point in their past three games, the victory was more important than the goal difference.

The home team's cause was assisted in the 64th minute when Canberra's David Winnie was sent off by referee Con Diomis for making contact with Andrew Marth's head during a tussle for possession.

But the writing was on the wall long

before then and Canberra were repeatedly carved up by the Blues, with John Markovski starring in his roaming role up front

Blues coach Stuart Munro was forced to reshuffle his starting line-up after the late withdrawals of Craig Deans (gastro) and Andrew Packer deprived him of two of his most consistent performers. Mark Atkinson was pushed into the sweeper's role, with Archie Thompson (below) taking up an unfamiliar role as a left wing-back. But their absence was offset by the return from suspension of midfield general Lubo Lapsansky who earned countless free-kicks and was a constant irritant to the Canberra defence. He was in everything early, picking up a booking for a foul on De Jesus then receiving some harsh treatment which resulted in bookings for Gonzalez and Burt

And after winning yet another free kick on the edge of the Cosmos penalty area he had a hand in the opening goal when he teed up the ball for Andrew Marth whose daisy cutter managed to squirm its way under Grant Barlow and inside the post.

Despite Carlton having the lion's share of possession they were struggling to get shots on target, with Markovski and Moreira (pictured top) not quite in sync and the offside flag making regular appearances.

On a number of occasions the Canberra defence was unlocked by the vision and passing ability of Markovski, but Moreira was rarely able to force Barlow into a save. His best chance came in first half injury time when a fast break saw him with Barlow to beat and Markovski totally unmarked to his left.



Rather than pass he chose to dribble around Barlow but his final shot lacked sufficient power and was cleared off the line.

Markovski was clearly furious but he would have been a little more forgiving when the Brazilian doubled the lead just three minutes into the second half. Sean Douglas crossed from the left and Barlow arrived too late to prevent Moreira from making solid contact from six metres out.

His confidence now restored, he almost immediately set off on a mazy dribble through the heart of the Cosmos rearguard and was clearly upended inside the area but his plea for a penalty only resulted in a yellow card for diving.

The chances were now coming with monotonous regularity, with Moreira (twice), Markovski and Thompson all guilty of profligate finishing, although Barlow should be credited with keeping the deficit to two before Winnie's unfortunate expulsion.

Stuart Munro introduced Angelo Motsopoulos for the final fifteen minutes and the young striker instantly took over from where Markovski left off, dribbling past defenders and finding Moreira with a gem of a through ball.

It was left to Archie Thompson to increase the lead, cutting inside from the left flank with a thundering right foot shot across Barlow which flew into the far corner.

His celebrations were short lived however as Ivo De Jesus scored the goal of the night just three minutes later. Picking up the ball in midfield he took off on a twenty metre run and as the Blues backline retreated, he spotted Anastasiadis off his line and produced an exquisite chip from outside the box which left the keeper stranded.

Unfortunately it all fell apart for the Cosmos in the final five minutes with Alex Moreira finally taking advantage of the excellent service he had received all night. With a minute of regular time remaining he latched on to a loose ball and side-footed past Barlow, and completed his hat-trick deep in stoppage time when he converted a one-on-one after a precise through ball from Lapsansky.

After the match Munro was visibly relieved it had all worked out in the end.

"Overall I was very pleased. Our resources were stretched to the limit tonight and we coped well. We were missing probably six first-team players tonight, but the players were fantastic and I was really pleased for them".

He was particularly pleased with Moreira's change of fortune after the break

"I had a chat with him at half time and tried to boost his confidence because he was sitting in the corner with his head down. I just said to him I don't care if you have fifty shots at goal and miss forty-nine of them. Keep going, keep trying."

Asked for a comment on the refereeing, Munro said: "We have press conferences every week and we spend something like thirty percent of the time



Carlton's De Jesus in a starting role in Carlton's thumping return to form at Olympic Park.

talking about referees. It's unfortunate".

When questioned about his side's disciplinary record, Canberra coach Tom Sermanni found it hard to hide his exasperation

"The referee didn't cost us the game, that's number one. I think the send-off was a little bit harsh, and there were lots of yellow cards and I don't think it was a particularly nasty game."

"That's five send-offs in ten games and I don't think we're a vicious or violent team, I suppose we're going to get into the same trouble as lots of teams, with lots of players on lots of yellow cards and I think that's a concern."

"I think there were nine players sent off last week but I don't see the games as any more violent. At the end of the day if the referee doesn't follow the laws, he gets into trouble".

Sermanni managed to retain his sense of humour, however. As he passed Stuart Munro he quipped

"I thought they were lucky. At 5-1 I thought we were still in with a chance..."

6043 - Brazil or not Brazil? Who really cares anymore?



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Bobby's back: Glory striker leads from front

SYDNEY UNITED 0
PERTH GLORY 1

Despotovski 48

Sunday night at Sydney United Sports Centre. Crowd 4,328



MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY UNITED:
Hughes, Bosnar, Kupresak, J. Moric, Younis (Saric 74), Racker (Jurilj 20), Pondeljak, Rastall, A. Moric, Zec, Jermen (Luff 74).



PERTH GLORY:
Petkovic, Naven, Harnwell, Thorp, Trajkovski, Miller (Carbone 66), Ergic (Afkos 87), Junior, Boutsianis, Despotovski, Edwards.

Yellow Cards:
United: Jermen 36

Best Players:

3. DESPOTOVSKI (PERTH GLORY)
2. Rastall (Sydney United)
1. Boutsianis (Perth Glory)

Referee: Jeremy Blaney.



Another quality showing from Glory's Con Boutsianis.

By John Vrataric

On a hot Sunday evening the two combatants seemed wary of the hot weather as if they were saving themselves for the second half. Indeed a mistake riddled first half only got going in the last ten minutes as the players seemed to wake suddenly from a heat induced slumber.

The second half produced a better performance from both teams with Glory able to capitalise on one of their few clear chances just on the other side of half time to post a deserved one-nil victory.

After two meritorious performances against the leaders Brisbane Strikers and, last week, Parramatta Power United were rocked by the absence of two key players Aytec Genc and Nahuel Arrarte.

Youngster Arrarte finally succumbed to his knee injury that has plagued him for

the last few weeks and went under the knife - he will be out for four weeks. Arrarte delayed his operation until the return of Genc at the request of his coach David Ratcliffe.

Genc's return, unfortunately, was short lived as he limped off in the second half of last week's game and had not recovered for this game.

Genc's absence is particularly noticeable as it is his skill and, more importantly, experience that helped the team to gel together since his return.

Glory was also missing two important linkmen as both Kasey Wehrman and Troy Halpin stayed home in Perth.

Wehrman was suspended after last week's sending off in the 4-2 victory over Carlton while Halpin's yellow card in the same game took him over the points limit and a mandatory suspension.

The portents for an exciting game were good as the game opened with a close call for Glory in the first minute.

Young Ivan Ergic gave the ball away as he attempted to pass back to his defence but found Tom Pondeljak instead.

Pondeljak slipped the ball neatly inside to Mario Jermen galloping through the centre towards the Glory goal.

Glory sweeper Gareth Naven slipped at an inopportune moment allowing Jermen a free passage towards Jason Petkovic's goal but Jermen was unable to take advantage as he couldn't gain control of Pondeljak's pass and the ball rolled safely into the arms of Petkovic.

The early excitement soon gave way to sloppy passing and uninspiring play by both sides. The game plodded along until the 16th minute when Glory midfielder Con Boutsianis made use of his fabulous left foot when given the opportunity with a free kick outside United's penalty box wide on Glory's right.

Boutsianis hit a wicked dipping shot over the wall that was headed just inside Brett Hughes' left hand post. The 'keeper saw the shot late but managed to dive low toward his near post and hold onto the sizzling shot.

In the 20th minute United were unsettled with the forced substitution of Mark Racker who was replaced by Mirko Jurilj who slotted into the sweeper position with Joe Moric being posted to his normal left back post.

The game sunk back into its mediocrity before Glory had two half chances in the 23rd and 25th minute.

The first one arrived from a right wing cross to an unmarked Scott Miller in the United penalty box but his header wasn't directed well and easily saved by Hughes.

The second opportunity arose from a well worked move on Glory's right when Boutsianis received the ball inside United's penalty box, with his back to the United goal the left footer opted to lay the ball off to the advancing Bobby

Despotovski just outside the box.

The striker let fly with a left foot shot that gave Hughes no chance but the cross bar prevented the opening goal.

In the last ten minutes of the half both sides created a number of half chances without being able to fully exploit any of them.

But a minute before the end of normal time an Alistair Edwards nutmeg of a defender found Despotovski in a one-on-one with Hughes but the striker was able to convert as he slipped the ball past the 'keeper and his right hand post.

The second half began quietly enough before Glory scored the winning goal in the 48th minute.

In a quick counter attack Ergic received a through ball deep in Glory's left wing where he slowed the game down as he waited for support.

Ergic pushed the ball back to Boutsianis and the initial danger seemed to have been averted as United was given time to defend in numbers.

Boutsianis was given time and space to pick the spot for his cross and United's defence didn't pick up their opponents as they returned to the defensive duties and left Despotovski completely unmarked.

Boutsianis promptly picked him out at the far post and the striker sweetly guided a header back across the goal into Hughes' net.

Five minutes later another Glory attack produced a superb cross from the right by Robert Trajkovski - it sailed past the far post on the left where the overlapping Scott Miller was first to the ball but his first time volley glided past the post and



United striker Mario Jermen (ctr) against Spirit earlier this year
Pic Joe Palos

just out of reach of the lunging foot of Despotovski.

One minute later an Eddy Bosnar lob over the Glory defence found Ante Moric inside the box but his control let him down and allowed Petkovic the time to dive on the ball.

In the 58th minute Pondeljak got as close to a goal as United were to get. An Ergic foul on Ante Moric allowed the little midfielder to take a direct strike on Petkovic's goal. His shot was slightly deflected by the wall and beat Petkovic



Winning goal: Bobby Despotovski returned for Glory, scored the only goal of the game and put in a man of the match performance.

but not the cross bar.

In the 65th minute a corner from Glory's left was floated onto the head of an unmarked Ergic but his header was skewed well wide.

United tried hard without success for the equaliser and it was Glory who had the last two chances as the game drew to a close.

In the 88th minute Boutsianis and Edwards created a chance for Jamie Harnwell who found himself unmarked in front of goal but he fluffed his shot and the danger was averted.

Four minutes into injury time a long goal kick landed at the feet of Despotovski who shielded it well and laid it off to Edwards who returned it back to his striking partner. Despotovski cut back inside the last defender and curled a superb left foot shot past Hughes but hit the apex of the goal.

The ball bounced out to Edwards who had space to measure his shot from just inside the penalty box - the defenders were able to recover with Kupresak deflecting his shot away for a corner.

In an average game where both teams missed their absent midfielders few players stood out.

Despotovski was the most dangerous forward hitting the crossbar twice and scoring the winning goal. Kain Rastall was busy as the linkman in United's midfield while Boutsianis, although below his best, was instrumental in creating many of Glory's dangerous moves.

United's most dangerous player Pondeljak was kept quiet and seemed to be one that missed the creativity of the absent Genc and Arrarte.

The only fireworks were off the field!

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2
 Kalantzis 56, Arambasic 81
ADELAIDE FORCE 0

Saturday night at Belmore Sports Ground. Crowd 5,032



MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
 Bouhoustos, Baillie, Juric, Wilson, Phillips, Cardozo, Emerton, Kalantzis, Mendez (Jomaa 79), Carle (Arambasic 65), Rush (Tome 85)



ADELAIDE FORCE:
 Knezevic, Tobin, Sabljak, Cartwright, Costanzo, Kemp, Brain (Veart 89), Ferguson (Day 79), Vidmar, Hassell, Mori.

Yellows:

Olympic: Juric 27, Phillips 52.
 Force: Sabljak 30

BEST PLAYERS:

3. PHILLIPS (SYDNEY OLYMPIC)
2. Brain (Adelaide Force)
1. Mendez (Sydney Olympic)

Referee, Eddie Lennie



Chris Kalantzis: solid game and a goal for Olympic

By Ben Cubby

Sydney Olympic limped to an uninspiring 2-0 win over Adelaide Force at Belmore Oval on Saturday night.

Ian Rush, in his second and final appearance for the Sydney club, was starved of quality service from midfield and failed to make an impression on the young Adelaide defence.

It was left to Chris Kalantzis and Zlatko Arambasic to secure the points for Olympic with a couple of opportunistic second half strikes.

As well as a largely inept performance on the pitch, the small crowd witnessed some of the most poorly organised pre-match entertainment ever seen at an NSL game.

A fireworks display left the field of play littered with shrapnel and, after complaints from both coaches, referee Eddie Lennie was obliged to postpone the kickoff for 25 minutes due to "firework debris on the pitch."

The sight of stewards and club officials raking the debris into little piles and then taking it away set the tone for a lacklustre evening at Belmore.

Olympic coach Branko Culina took a gamble by playing Rush as a lone centre-forward, with Brett Emerton and Nick Carle attacking down the flanks, and Pablo Cardozo sitting in

the playmaker's position alongside Gabriel Mendez.

The new formation ultimately brought the home team victory, but Adelaide were the more threatening side early on.

Brad Hassell ran onto a defence-splitting pass in the 12th minute, but Olympic keeper George Bouhoustos defused the danger with a well timed intervention.

Force goalie Vilson Knezevic was equal to Cardozo's long range shot in the 14th minute, but looked suspect when claiming high crosses.

On the half-hour mark, he was stranded by a long ball from Marcus Phillips and Ante Juric's downward-angled header only just missed an open goal.

After successfully defending a free-kick in the 35th minute, Adelaide's Damien Mori broke quickly down the left.

His cross missed the unmarked Auelio Vidmar, but found Scottish import Derek Ferguson. The former Rangers and Partick man dawdled on the ball before cutting inside a couple of defenders and curling a shot just wide of the top corner.

Vidmar bounced a header past the post shortly afterwards, but there was precious little to cheer about in the first half.

The game needed a goal, and Chris Kalantzis justified his selection by providing one in the 56th minute.

Rush pushed a through-ball into the path of Carle from the edge of the 18-yard box. Knezevic reached it first, but erred badly by clearing with his feet instead of claiming it with his hands.

Carle regained possession and cut the ball back to Kalantzis, who rammed home past Knezevic from close range.

Adelaide counter-attacked with renewed urgency, Nick Sabljak and Australian Joey Louis Brain pulling the strings in midfield.

Sabljak provided Hassell with a pinpoint cross in the 72nd minute. The big striker rose to meet it, but his glancing header missed the bottom corner of the net by inches.

It was a clear-cut chance that could have changed the complexion of the match. Olympic were let off the hook, though, and soon afterwards they doubled their lead with a classy goal.

Emerton drove a hard cross across the face of goal and substitute Arambasic stretched out to volley past Knezevic for the winner.

With the match won, Rush was replaced by Norman Tome in the 85th minute. It had been a frustrating game for the veteran, but he left the field to resounding applause.

Adelaide almost found a goal in the dying minutes, but substitute Nathan Day shot into the side netting after inventive lead-up work by Brain.

The result keeps Olympic hot on the heels of current leaders Brisbane, while the Force are left sitting on the last rung of the league ladder.

Not a classic match this one, although Olympic will take



Olympic scorer Zlatko Arambasic

heart from the fact that they played poorly and still collected three points.

Of greater concern was the low attendance. The official figure of 5,032 appeared to be overly optimistic - 3,000 would have been closer to the truth.

Without the impact of live television or a real threat of rain, and with Ian Rush making his last appearance for the home side, the club was anticipating a much higher turn-out.

Rush himself emerged from the player's tunnel to thank the crowd for their hospitality and support after the match. After decades of celebrity, he hasn't lost the common touch.

Olympic deserve credit for bringing Rush out to Australia - it's just a pity that the visit was so short.

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Ian Rush: his brief visit showed what a professional he is both on and off the field

South's system change pays dividends



SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
 Panopoulos 21, Anastasiadis 39, Curcija 63, Coveny 86.
PARRAMATTA POWER 2
 Griffiths 37, Sterjovski 61.

Sunday afternoon at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 7,653

MATCH STATS:



SOUTH MELBOURNE:
 Udvaracz, Blatsis, Iosofidis, Orlic, Liparoti, De Amicis, Lozanovski, Clarkson (Tsekinis 74), Panopoulos, Curcija (Magnacca 89), Anastasiadis (Coveny 74).

PARRAMATTA POWER:
 Crews, Bennett, Blagojevic (c), Vrkic (Santalab 80), Erlich, Burns, Ardene, Gibson, Angelucci (Townsend 78), Sterjovski, Griffiths (Eagleton 57).

Yellow Cards:

South Melbourne: Liparoti 27.
 Power: Vrkic 43, Ardene 77.

Red Cards:

Power: Burns (63).

BEST PLAYERS:

3. PANOPoulos
(SOUTH MELBOURNE)
 2. Blatsis (South Melbourne)
 1. Blagojevic (Parramatta Power)

Referee: Matthew Breeze



Steve Panopoulos showing some good form for South



The referee had no alternative but to red card Power's Olyroo Jacob Burns

By Alan Clark

This was a game billed in such a way as to confuse even Lewis Carroll: a Grand Final re-match which involved a team which didn't exist at the time of the Grand Final.

But the players of the respective sides certainly knew each other from that day in May. Twelve of the 14 players who

had game-time for Sydney United against South Melbourne in the Grand Final are now on Parramatta's current roster as are both members of Power's coaching staff.

The outcome was somewhat similar as well - South Melbourne eventually triumphing 4-2 and retaining its proud home record in an entertaining and open match which had its fair share of fire as well as skill. And as if to wrest the stage away from the pre-match parade of five of the Silver-Medal-winning Joeys, players who will be Olympians within a year had crucial roles for both teams in this fixture.

At times the match threatened to boil over but never quite did, despite some behind the play action not spotted by the refereeing team, one involving Jacob Burns

and Steve Panopoulos just before the break, and another late in the game resulting in Joe Vrkic leaving the field with blood streaming from his nose.

Speaking of the action - and obviously not making reference to any unsavoury incident - South coach Ange Postecoglou said: "There's nothing wrong with that. (It was) a bit of entertainment, and we're in the entertainment business.

"It was a good game - plenty of

goals, incidents, penalties and send-offs. There were some good goals in there."

Coming off a 1-5 loss in Brisbane last round, and now winning 4-2, Postecoglou had every reason to be satisfied with the win.

Against Parramatta, South Melbourne played a formation not often seen at Bob Jane.

Robert Liparoti, usually a central defender, was played directly in front of the defensive line as a deep-lying midfielder, and picked up Power's John Angelucci - himself playing in the hole behind the pairing of Olyroos Joel Griffiths and Mile Sterjovski.

It was a mostly-effective ploy despite Liparoti only this season being a genuine first-team starter.

"We did that last week (against Brisbane) and I was happy with the way it went," said Postecoglou. "I know we copped five goals and it sounds ridiculous, but in the first half when we used it, it worked well, and I just thought today it'd give us a good base to build from."

South broke through for the lead midway through the half after an early penalty claim - mystifyingly turned down by referee Matthew Breeze to hoots of derision by the home crowd.

John Anastasiadis had been comprehensively cleaned up by Power goalkeeper Andrew Crews as he followed up a 25 metre Michael Curcija thunderbolt split by Crews.

The opening goal had a most innocuous genesis. Curcija had earned a corner which the usually reliable Goran Lozanovski duffed.

The clearance ran for a South Melbourne throw which Lozanovski - perhaps seeking to make up for his earlier uncharacteristic profligacy - sent to Con Blatsis, still forward from the corner. Blatsis sent in a cross Lozanovski himself would have been proud to call his own, which was only part-cleared.

It fell to Panopoulos just outside the area. Panopoulos' screamer hit the net with Crews still in mid-dive.

But Parramatta levelled sixteen minutes later, again with a corner at its heart. Peter Bennett had it played short to him, and crossed to the penalty-spot where Olyroo Joel Griffiths headed home.

If the home support were contemplating the ramifications of another stutter in this season's campaign, the thought had scarcely time to develop.

South had regained the lead within two minutes. Anastasiadis made up for the disappointment at being denied his penalty claim when he met Blatsis' cross from the right and scored with a powerful header.

Some bad feeling split over before the re-start.

Panopoulos and Jason Burns tangled, bringing in players of both sides, but settled by referee Breeze and the teams' calmer heads without any cards being shown. Breeze's cards were to see significant second-half action though.

A game as open as this wasn't going to be settled without second half goals, and it wasn't a surprise when



Man of the Match: South's unsung hero Steve Panopoulos

Power levelled - only perhaps its manner.

After sustained South pressure, Power launched a lightning-quick raid down the right which ended up with Angelucci's cross landing perfectly for Sterjovski's header just after the hour.

Once again, it took only two minutes for South's lead to be restored.

Burns brought down Anastasiadis inside the area as Anastasiadis prepared to shoot, ending the game for Burns, and giving away a penalty, coolly tucked away by Curcija.

Speaking after the game, Power coach David Mitchell had no complaints about the penalty or the send-off - just the effects. "If you go strictly by the rules of the game (Anastasiadis) was through on goal - a goal-scoring opportunity - (Burns) brought him down in the box.

"It's just a bit harsh when you lose a penalty, a goal against, and you lose a man - particularly at that time when we'd got back to (level at) two-two, were doing very well, and were dominating the game."

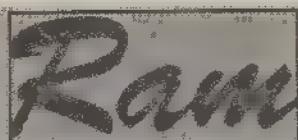
Even despite going behind for the third time in the game, Power were unlucky not to have levelled yet again.

South needed to rely on a goal-line clearance from Blatsis after Liparoti slipped in his own penalty-area conceding possession.

But the game was effectively settled when substitute Vaughan Coveny outran a tiring Power defensive line galloping goalwards from the half-way line to face only Crews to score four minutes from time.

"I'm very disappointed" said Mitchell. "I think the goals that (South) scored had come from some bad defensive mistakes from our side."

But the players should be proud of the way they played. Even with ten men at the end."



INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



Marconi's Paolo Marchesini...scorer of a goal from the penalty spot.

Theo Katsaros reports that the Marconi Stallions Colts defeated the Northern Spirit Colts on Wednesday night in a deferred fixture from Round One.

The four-one result came courtesy of strikes from Adrian Papaluca, Paolo Marchesini, from the penalty spot, Saul Santilli and Adam Burnett. Nathan Foti replied for the Spirit.

In Round 10 action, the Sydney Olympic Academy travelled to Brandon Park to face the Wollongong Wolves. Despite leading one-nil after 12 minutes, via Daniel Aldridge, the Wolves could not keep the Olympians at bay. Goals to Christian Cevenini after 15 minutes and Sash Tirovski on the stroke of half-time were enough to take all the three points for the visitors.

The Newcastle Breakers entertained the Q.A.S. on Friday night. Two lapses prior to both breaks cost the Q.A.S. dearly. For Newcastle, Joshua Rufo scored in the 44th minute and Mitchell Johnson scored two minutes from time to secure the two-nil victory.

The N.S.W.I.S. were ruthless in their five goals to nil destruction of the A.C.T.A.S. at Valentine Park. The hosts went ahead through Peter Cavaghan in the 7th minute and struck two minutes later via Brett Holman. David Camey added a third after half an hour before Cavaghan grabbed his second in the 32nd minute. The second half produced a solitary goal to Gavin Hartage after 82 minutes.

In Canberra, the A.I.S. annihilated the Northern Spirit Colts by eight goals to nil. The A.I.S. welcomed back their Joeys who immediately made an impact. Lucas Pantelis found the net twice whilst Joshua Kennedy also scored on his return. Elias Demourtzidis bagged a hat-trick before being substituted whilst Goran Talevski and Grant Last scored singles.

An 89th minute winner from Anthony Mondello settled the clash between the Marconi Stallions and the Northern Spirit. The Spirit took the lead after 16 minutes through David Seal but trailed for most of the second half after Daniel Severino netted twice for the Stallions in the 43rd and 50th minutes. The Spirit must have thought they had stolen a point when Paul Bilokapic scored in the 85th minute but they could not deny the hosts.

The Q.A.S. defeated the Newcastle Breakers Colts by three goals to win in a match brought forward from Round 27. The Breakers took the lead in the 19th minute through Paul Wheeler. The Q.A.S. however were too strong in the second half. The goalscorers for the Queenslanders were Adam Webber, Brady Davidson and Russel Miner.

At Belmore, Sydney Olympic hammered an outclassed Sydney United Colts outfit. The seven-nil demolition cements Olympic's top three position. For Olympic, Huseyin Nizam grabbed a double, whilst Paul Kohler, Nathaniel George, a recent acquisition from the Northern Spirit, Damian Pisano, Dylan Macallister and Dimitri Nicolaou registered singles.

The A.I.S. looked to be in trouble when they trailed four-one to the Sydney Olympic Academy in the match brought forward from Round 13. However, a five goal second half secured an amazing six-four win for the Institute.

The Parramatta Power remains on top of the league after scraping home by one goal to nil over the Newcastle Breakers Colts. Monte Pfrengle scoring in the 66th minute.

Sydney United host the Wollongong Wolves Colts on Monday 6 December at 7.00pm to wrap up an eventful Round 10.

Roy Hay reports that the Victorian Institute of Sport completed its sixth game in the Southern Division without conceding a goal when it beat Fawkner Blues by five goals to nil at Grange Reserve on Saturday.

Lou Kastner took charge of the team in the absence of head coach Ernie Mernick who was speaking at a conference.

Evan Papadopoulos put the VIS in front after only four minutes, then Ray Sekulovski made it two in 20. Mark Tsiorlas came on as substitute with about twenty minutes to go and promptly set up Naum Sekulovski for a goal in 78 minutes, then scored two of his own in 83 and 88 minutes to round off a comprehensive victory against a plucky Fawkner outfit.

Gippsland Falcons and Melbourne Knights drew one-all at Falcons Stadium also on Friday. Chris Tabak, the Knights left side player opened for the Knights early on and Tony Pardo equalised from the penalty spot for the Falcons.

South Melbourne beat Preston Lions by three goals to one at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday. From the scoreline it looked like a regulation win to the Blues, with two goals from George Goutzioulis and one from the ever active Boris Ovcin.

But despite incessant South Melbourne pressure it was the young Lions who took the lead a couple of minutes before the interval through Ali Ibrahim.

An early goal in the second half levelled for the Blues and then they went ahead shortly afterwards.

The stand-out player in the match however was Lions keeper Pasi Schwalger who stood between his team and a landslide. Watch out for this keeper in future.

A seven-goal thriller between Bulleen Inter and South Dandenong ended with a winning goal to Bulleen in the 88th minute after South Dandenong had fought back from three-one down.

Michael Marinelli scored first for Bulleen and the prolific Xhezair Sulemani added two more in 51 and 64 minutes, before the Dandenong fightback led by former Knights youth player Festim Zekiri who scored twice.

Young Ibrahim Ibraimi made it three each, but with two minutes left to play Joseph Damiano conjured up the winner for Bulleen.

Goran Runje of South Dandenong could not fault his players work-rate and effort, but will be working on cutting out crosses for all four of Bulleen's goals came from incidents where the South defence did not attack cross balls.

Melbourne Knights Academy recorded its first win for the season by a goal to nil against Albury Wodonga.

The only goal came six minutes into the second half from Ibrahim Hanzic.

The Knights staff thought their team had the better of the match, but only managed to put one chance away, but the lads from Albury Wodonga would point to their stern resistance and refusal to give way under pressure.

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	B	L	F	APts
Parramatta Power	9	8	1	1	0	29	4 25
A.I.S.	11	7	2	0	2	45	14 23
Sydney Olympic	8	6	2	1	0	24	5 20
Q.A.S.	10	6	1	1	3	29	14 19
Northern Spirit	8	5	1	1	2	15	10 16
Newcastle Breakers	10	5	1	0	4	17	14 18
Marconi Stallions	8	5	0	0	3	13	15 15
N.S.W.I.S	8	4	1	1	3	16	7 13
Olympic Academy	9	4	0	1	5	22	33 12
A.C.T.A.S.	9	3	2	1	4	15	22 11
Marconi Stallions Colts	8	2	2	1	4	12	20 8
Northern Spirit Colts	8	2	2	1	4	9	20 8
Wollongong Wolves	8	2	1	1	5	8	16 7
Sydney United	6	2	1	0	3	6	15 7
Breakers Colts	11	1	1	0	9	11	26 6
Sydney United Colts	11	1	2	0	8	11	30 5
Wolves Colts	6	0	1	1	5	5	23 1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Carlton	6	6	0	0	22	2 18
VIS	6	6	0	0	20	0 18
Bulleen Inter Kings	6	5	0	1	19	9 15
Melbourne Knights	7	3	2	2	24	15 11
Gippsland Falcons	6	3	1	2	9	14 10
South Melbourne	5	3	0	2	17	7 9
South Dandenong	6	2	2	2	10	10 8
Fawkner Blues	6	1	2	3	8	15 5
Knights Academy	6	1	0	5	3	8 3
Albury Wodonga	7	0	1	6	7	28 1
Preston Lions	7	0	0	7	2	33 0

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Stallions Colts	4	Northern Spirit Colts	1
Papaiuca 15'		Foti 18'	
Marchesini 24' pen, Santilli 37'			
Burnett 88'			
Wollongong Wolves 1		Olympic Academy 2	
Alndge 12'		Cevenini 15', Tirovski 45'	
Newcastle Breakers 2		Q.A.S. 0	
N.S.W.I.S. 5		Rufo 44', Johnson 88'	
Cavaghan 7', 32', Holman 9', Camey 30', Hartage 82'		A.C.T.A.S. 0	
A.I.S. 8			
Pantelis 20', 57', Demourtzidis 28', 50', 53', Talevski 38', Last 59', Kennedy 74'		Northern Spirit Colts 0	
Marconi Stallions 3			
Severino 43', 50', Mondello 89'		Northern Spirit Youth 2	
Breakers 1		Seal 16', Bilokapic 85'	
Wheeler 19'		Q.A.S. 3	
Sydney Olympic 7		Webber 48', Davidson 62'	
Kohler 16', George 21', Pisano 35', Macallister 62', Nicolaou 64', Nizam 67', 81'		Miner 88'	
Olympic Academy 4		Sydney United Colts 0	
(scorers unavailable)			
Breakers Colts 0		A.I.S. 6	
		(Kennedy 13', Mirkela 47', Last 52', 58', 63', Hathaway 81')	
		Parramatta Power 1	
		Pfrengle 66'	

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

VIS	5	Fawkner Blues 0	
Tsiorlas 2, Papadopoulos, R. Sekulovski, N. Sekulovski			
Gippsland Falcons 1		Melbourne Knights 1	
Pardo		Tabak	
South Melbourne 3		Preston Lions 1	
Goutzioulis 2, Ovcin Ibrahim			
Bulleen Inter 4			
Suleiman 2, Marinelli, Damiano		South Dandenong 3	
Knights Academy 1		Zekiri 2, Ibrahim	
Hanzic		Albury Wodonga 0	

ANISSA TANN-DARBY comments on the Matildas' calendar



Howard Stern in the USA!

Wherever I go people ask for information regarding the calendar. The interest that has been generated over the past week has been tremendous.

Unfortunately, problems arose early with Australia Olympic Committee officials angry over the use of the word "Olympic" on the calendar.

By that stage approximately 30,000 calendars had already been printed with more on the way.

Discussions were held to make changes to the current calendar. Under the Sydney 2000 Games Protection act the number 2000 and the word "Olympic" cannot be used for promotional purposes without the permission of SOCOG or the AOC.

Future copies of the calendar will have to forgo these two terms. Hopefully, this can be sorted out so that new calendars can be released as soon as possible.

Already interest from the business sector has come to fruition with the Australian Women's Soccer Association announcing three new sponsors in Mitre, Lauda Air and Flora Smallgoods.

With all the positive feedback that has come with the release of the calendar there has also been a negative backlash.

The girls however have not been deterred by these comments. All members of the team were extremely satisfied with their photographs and have no regrets whatsoever, saying they would do it all over again tomorrow.

Amy Taylor, who provides the cover shot, has been seen on national television all week with interviews on SBS and the Sports Panel Show etc, has done an outstanding job promoting both the calendar and the Matildas.

She was very accommodating in providing Max Markson with a personally autographed copy which I am sure will take pride of place on a wall not to far away.

Amy's photographs, most people believe, are the most startling and provocative, but when you're as good

looking as her you may as well show it off. Amy Taylor said she was happy to bare her breasts and was thrilled with the end product.

With all this new found media awareness, the team hopes that this attention will translate into public attendance at future Internationals, as well as encourage companies to sponsor and support the Matildas.

With our next games only a month away, the team hopes to see you at North Sydney Oval on January 7.

ANTIPODEAN TOUR

Currently we have another female soccer team moving throughout Europe and representing Australia. Coach Vicki Linton tells me that the Antipodeans are a company involved in organising sporting tours for Australian school students.

Formed in 1990, sports tours this year have included soccer, hockey, netball, rugby and cricket.

A male and female team are touring Europe and played their first game in Amsterdam the other day. The boys team played Den Haag, Div 1, U/18 and had an unlucky 1-1 draw.

The girls on the other hand played a female U/20 team and won 2-0. Not bad when you think that most of the players are three to four years younger than the girls from Holland.

The Australian girls dominated the first half with Lisa Gatt scoring early after

winning the ball from the sweeper, she then proceeded to beat two further opponents and slotted the ball under the advancing keeper.

The second goal came midway through the first half when a cross from Bianca Duffy was headed in by Jade Kelly. They game was played in cold and windy conditions, however, the girls were able to maintain their two goal lead.

Girls' squad: Lyndall Swanson, Jade Kelly, Averil Manners, Amie Goulding, Alison Schmidt, Angela Vella(C), Bianca Duffy, Lisa Gatt, Danyelle Pringle, Erin Lee, Amanda Teudt, Melissa Robertson, Kate Sherratt(VC).

COACH: Vicki Linton
Squad manager: Jen Worsley

The Next Generation

By Ben Cubby

The recent outstanding success of the Joeys at the U-17 World Cup has again focused attention upon the development of talented young soccer players in Australia.

Since the Young Socceroos reached the semi-finals of the World Youth Cup in 1991 and 1993, there has been a relatively lean spell at junior level, culminating in elimination by New Zealand in the qualifying phase of the previous U-17 event.

But the Joeys bounced back to show that, despite a lack of preparation and mainstream media support, the Australian formula can bring victory against quality international opposition.

Interestingly, this Joeys team as now being touted as the foundation of the next Young Socceroos squad, which will hopefully contest the World Youth Cup in 2001.

FIFA age rules are designed to give players born in successive years an equal chance of representing national teams.

In this case, the event in New Zealand was contested by players born after the 1st of January, 1982. The World Youth Cup in 2001 is open to players born after the 1st of January, 1981.

This means that many of the current Joeys may still be too young for the Young Socceroos in two years time.

A year is a long time in youth football,

and traditionally Australian youth teams have drawn largely upon the older players at their disposal, even though some of their younger counterparts already have international experience.

Luckily for Australia, there is an expanding pool of talented, eligible players emerging from the various state institutes and academies.

The next national youth coach, whoever he may be, has the task of sifting through probably the largest ever group of aspirants, both here and overseas, to put together the 2001 squad.

The goalkeeper's gloves, for example, will be tightly contested. Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan, one of the heroes of the recent final against Brazil, will be in competition with the likes of Michael Turnbull.

Turnbull is already appearing regularly for Marconi in the NSL, and has already represented Australia at the Youth Cup (U/20) in Nigeria earlier this year.

Ian Martin, who plays in England with Newcastle United, is another to look out for, along with the NSW Institute of Sport's Matthew Nash.

The form of Adrian Madaschi and Mark Bynes at New Zealand '99 singled them out as two of the players of the tournament.

Bynes also visited Nigeria earlier this year with the youth team, making him

the youngest ever Young Socceroo.

Among the older players challenging for their defensive positions will be talented AIS sweeper Ljubo Milicevic.

Overseas based players like Luke Wilshire (Middlesbrough) and Gareth Edds (Nottingham Forest) may also come into the picture.

Jade North and Shane Cansdell-Sheriff were outstanding in attacking full-back positions for the Joeys, but, as usual, there are a number of players available who can fill those roles.

Carlton's David Grbac, Adelaide's Matt Kemp and Sydney Olympic's Lee Miot should be given a chance to prove themselves.

Ivan Ergic has been in superb form since he joined Perth Glory from the AIS this year. He narrowly missed selection for the '99 Young Socceroos after scoring for them against South Korea in a warm up match.

The Joeys pair of Wayne Srhoj and Louis Brain are potentially excellent players and both should be able to make the step up to the older age group.

Alongside them in midfield, others like West Ham's Michael Ferrante and current AIS captain Grant Last should get a look in.

Greg Owens, of the Newcastle Breakers, is another youngster with exceptional potential.

Up front, a formidable group of players will be competing to represent their country. High on the list is Nick Carle, Sydney Olympic's prodigy, who has actually already played for the Olyroos.

AIS goal-machine Elias Demourtzidis has a big future as does Northern Spirit forward Ryan Griffiths.

Young West Australian Richard Garcia has been earning rave reviews with West Ham, and he scored twice in last season's FA Youth Cup Final for the club.

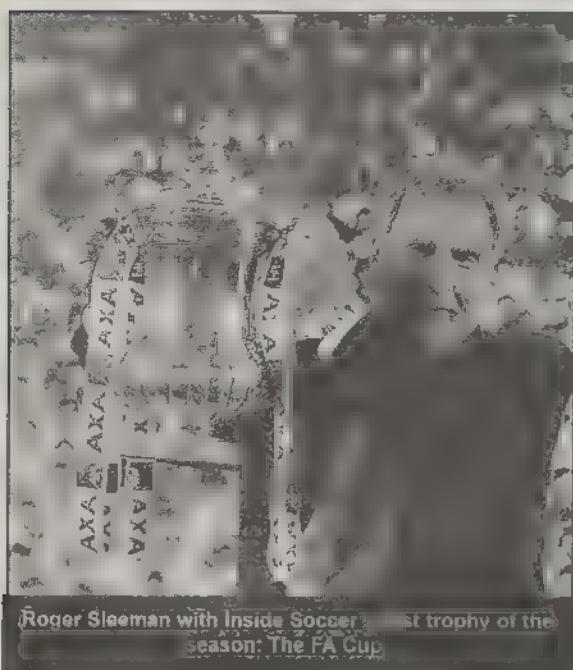
Add to this the impressive Joeys strike force of Dylan MacAllister, Joe Di Iorio and Scott McDonald, and the picture begins to look very healthy indeed.

Success in football brings professional contracts and it seems likely that in the next few years more and more of Australia's best young players will leave the country to further their careers.

While this is a dream for player, it makes life difficult for national team bosses.

The good news for this latter group is that the coaching structures in each state are continuing to produce quality players who want to play for Australia.

The Keeper of The Cup



Roger Sleeman with Inside Soccer's first trophy of the season: The FA Cup

By Roger Sleeman

The history of the F.A. Cup is one that few sports have. At the start of every campaign the hopes of the smaller clubs are linked to progress through the early rounds of the Cup. In the vain hope they will pit their desire and enthusiasm against the might of a Premier League outfit. The resulting windfall for the club will guarantee their financial survival for seasons to come.

However, the F.A. Cup is more than a competition for the clubs, it's the Cup of the people and people dream of the opportunity to see the Cup and even put their hands on it.

Any football supporter would give their eye teeth to show the world the Cup, but for the last five years Laurie Good has done nothing else but display the F.A. Cup throughout the world.

Three weeks ago Laurie Good was in Sydney featuring the Cup and was faced with more than a touch of envy from many football fanatics.

The background to Laurie Good's association with the Cup is one of those fairy tale stories. For many years he had been employed by the state of Qatar to

look after one of the sons of the former Emir.

Five years ago he renewed an acquaintance with a security guard who had also worked for the Emir and his family.

"My friend asked me if I would go to Liverpool to pick up the F.A. Cup and bring it back to London," explains Good.

"My answer at first was no, and no again, but he finally convinced me to carry out the errand and before I knew it I was taking the Cup around the country on a permanent basis."

In August 1998, the AXA group acquired the sponsorship and naming rights for the F.A. Cup for four years at a cost of 26 million pounds sterling plus a further budgeted cost of 70 million sterling for advertising and signage.

Fortunately, Laurie Good was retained in his position as custodian of the trophy.

The FA Cup is the holy grail to English football supporters and people will literally die to see it, so Laurie Good has the pleasant task of parading the Cup throughout England and around the globe.

"Last year I visited 1000 schools in England, and as a goodwill gesture, AXA gave full kits to the children which is an expensive exercise but really confirms the spirit of the F.A. Cup.

"Only a month ago, Kevin Keegan and Michael Owen came on some school visits to coach and also to pose for photos with the children holding the Cup.

"You can imagine the reaction of the children when they see their idols and Keegan especially is a superb communicator and a pleasure to work with."

The game is all about the great players and most people could only dream of meeting and conversing with the likes of former stars George Best, Sir Stanley Matthews, Gary Lineker, Sir Geoffrey Hurst, Frank McClintock and Andy Gray to name just a few.

"Georgie Best is a good friend and I see him regularly at charity functions where the Cup is displayed.

"For the record, he never won a F.A. Cup winners medal so even for Best it is an honour to hold the Cup and an even greater one for me to have photos taken with him sharing the glory of the silverware."

"Can you imagine visiting Stanley Matthews at home or meeting Gary Lineker and Andy Gray on a regular basis at the television stations?"

"There was one time when I'd seen Gary Lineker so many times in a few weeks that he asked me if I was following him."

One of Laurie Good's most eventful experiences was when he was asked to go to Newcastle United to display the Cup.

At the club were school children, media and the players, including Alan Shearer and Robbie Lee, who were all about to see the Cup come out for display.

look after it because it was the original."

"The Cup over the years has taken quite a beating, particularly when the players are in celebratory mood; passing it around the change rooms drinking champagne from it in the bath and being thrown around in the bus as the players depart from Wembley."

Laurie Good had many photo opportunities over the last few years and the one he really craved was to put Brooklyn Beckham, daughter of David Beckham and Posh Spice into the Cup.

However, he was prevented from doing this because of the contractual arrangements with a British magazine.

"One of the few regrets I have in life, is that in my old age I wouldn't be able to prove to people that I'd mixed with all the best players and celebrities because photos were sometimes denied."

Yet the spirit of the AXA F.A. Cup extends even beyond the glamour and stardom of professional football. Laurie Good is heavily involved with charity work and auctions to ensure the Cup reaches as many people as possible.

"The company runs competitions to give people the opportunity to have the Cup for a day."

"Recently, a girl in Belfast won the Cup for a day so I took it up to her house and she gave it to her school for a few hours."

"We have many auctions to raise money for various charities and a few months ago a man paid 7,000 pounds to have his photo with the Cup."

"The professional football clubs also give great assistance in helping charities which really indicates how the Cup has a special effect in uniting people in the name of football."

As Laurie Good was contemplating his return to London three weeks ago, his first project was to report to Wembley for various functions on the eve of the return England v Scotland European Championship tie.

To exchange employment with this lucky man, and walk in the same corridors as immortals like George Best, would be for some football supporters like a licence to tell their grandchildren they'd walked in heaven.



The Keeper of the Cup: AXA's very popular Laurie Good.



"Suddenly, there was a roar at the bottom of the stairs and the Cup was quickly put away".

"The roar subsided as Ruud Gullitt, the manager at the time, walked up the stairs into the club and I was so embarrassed I apologised to Gullitt shortly after what had happened."

"Of course the media made big mileage of this event and even reported that I had been removed from the club."

As a representative of AXA, Laurie Good is truly an ambassador for his company so at all times he has to uphold the dignity and history of the Cup and maintain the good name of AXA in football circles.

At Sir Alex Ferguson's testimonial earlier in the year, Laurie Good was able to witness the true spirit of Manchester United as he rubbed shoulders with all the players.

"I remember handing the Cup to Ryan Giggs and asking him politely to

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JOHN BUONAVOGLIA WITH MELISSA THE FLYING RESTAURATEUR



John Buonavoglia, Breakers speedy striker and restauranteur to the stars

By Melissa Muscat

Huge dining area, games room, entertainment area, complete with timber furnishings and has an atmosphere just like Italy. Sound perfect? It is - but it's not for sale. I am referring to the pizzeria on Ramsay street Haberfield which is owned by a certain Newcastle Breakers player.

Buonavoglia's on Ramsay. This classy eatery accommodates all occasions - breakfast, lunch, dinner, private functions or anything else you may desire.

Buonavoglia's on Ramsay is the first venture of three brothers. Alex, Gino and John Buonavoglia (the latter being the Breakers striker) have together opened up their own pizzeria.

But don't let the word pizzeria narrow your images:

This place serves anything from seafood delicacies to nutella calzones. That's right, pizza and chocolate in the one place - need I go on?

When Inside Soccer's editor Aidan Ormond was told about this he immediately dropped his Matildas calendar and said "right, make a booking Mel".

If you are to dine during the day, you will see Grandma, Mum and John Buonavoglia, but if you prefer the night scene you will catch Gino who is the pizza cook and Alex, the head waiter.

John's role is more behind the scenes which includes the ordering, financial and



purchasing aspects.

Starting from scratch, the boys have achieved their goal (pardon the pun.) Restaurants like this truly are few and far between. With a mouth watering menu, wonderful service and a touch of Europe, this place cannot be overlooked.

Just look for the large sign Buonavoglia's on Ramsay street Haberfield, heading towards the city

Call John for any bookings or enquiries on 9716 4344 - you never know, you may even score an autograph

We now speak to the man himself on life, football and business.

So John, I'll start by asking the question of what pizza do you recommend? Are there any 'Breakers' specialties on the menu?

The menu was established before the Breakers was on the scene. I am yet to put a Breakers' pizza on the menu, but you never know.

Without giving away too many tricks of the trade, is it something in the pizza that makes you Newcastle's 'Pocket Rocket'?

My brothers likes to think that there is

Has having your own Pizza Shop 'Buonavoglia's on Ramsay', turned you off pizza for life?

Never.

Do any of your fellow team mates wine and dine here on a regular basis? If yes, have they scared away

any of the regular customers?

Catlin and Harper have been but were on their best behaviour.

When players from other teams eat here do you charge them double or just spike their food to disadvantage them when they meet up with the Breakers.

No, not really. I suppose it wouldn't hurt to spike them a little bit.

Well-done for last Friday night, and your goal was really special. How would you rate the Breakers overall performance



Breakers' John Buonavoglia zips past Ransford Bannini of the Knights

this season so far?

In one word - unlucky! We haven't reached our peak yet. Against Marconi we missed a penalty in the last minute.

At half time, is there a traditional Buonavoglia's banquet that comes out, or does Lee Sterrey prefer to stick with the oranges?

A John Buonavoglia recipe:

MARGARITA PIZZA:

Thin bubbly crust.
Traditional Napolitana sauce.
Generous amount of virgin olive oil.
A couple of basil leaves.
Boccincini cheese.

Pizzas will get cold taken all the way to Newcastle. No, oranges and Powerade.

Is this where you'd bring your partner for a romantic dinner for two?

Definitely, caters for all occasions, romantic, family.

Are the techniques used in the kitchen similar to those used on the soccer field? Are there any special rules which apply to both?

Let's have a think about that one. The pizzas come out fast ("maybe that has something to do with his speed?"). Always take pride in whatever you do ("the ant-sized player with a heart larger than life works six days and even Sundays if possible").

Very briefly, this is an opportunity for you to sell your business to the readers of Inside Soccer.

Traditional Napolitana cooked woodfire pizza with service that is friendly. Atmosphere very European style (classy wooden furniture). Very large air-conditioned, games room. All home cooked by mum and grandma, and it's all very affordable.

Try the Nutella Calzone - just ask Bobby Catlin, still licking off his lips, plus lots of seafood specials.

GG ARMY SAYS 'LET'S SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'

In Melbourne there is a group of Aussie soccer supporters totally devoted to our game and our national teams. They are the GG Army (Green and Gold Army) and they want to support all Australian teams. The next game Australia play in Melbourne is the Matildas' Australia Cup match. We support all fans getting behind all our national teams in this new millennium, a century that should be a golden one for Aussie Soccer. You can E-mail the GG Army if you want to get involved with other fans who are Aussie soccer supporters through and through.

ggarmy@hotmail.com

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

Inside Soccer supports Australian Soccer to the hilt. We try to give the best possible support to the game, while still doing our job as a soccer publication. But we can all do things that will advance the cause of the Global Game. Here are a few suggestions.

- 1: Ask for soccer products at your local sports store. If they don't sell them ask them why and tell them you will take your business elsewhere unless they start stocking.
- 2: If the media is not covering soccer as well as they could, let them know. Of course abuse will get you nowhere, but if you make your point (letter, E-mail, fax etc) clearly and logically it makes a difference. Support those media who support the World Game.
- 3: Wear your soccer shirt when you go out. It all helps.
- 4: Bring a friend to a soccer match.
- 5: Ring up talkback shows and talk soccer.



Inside Soccer's NSL ALL-STARS

NOVEMBER 1999

SQUAD MEMBERS

Clayton Bell (Falcons)

Scout Chippindale (Centres)

Angelo Costanzo (Force)

Natascia Di Vante (Sydney City)

Alistair Edwards (Glory)

Andy Roberts (Breakers)

John Rustemeyer (Breakers)

Robbie Middleby (Kings)

Archie Thompson (Carlton)

Tommy Todorovski



1: CLINT BOLTON
Brisbane Strikers



2: BUDDY FARAH
Marconi Stallions



3: TROY HALPIN
Perth Glory



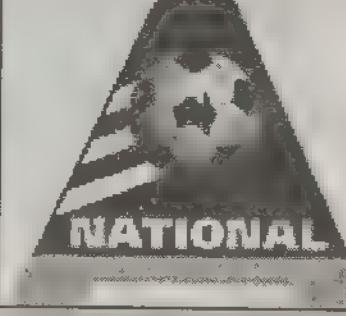
1: CLINT BOLTON
Brisbane Strikers



4: MEHMED DURAKOVIC
Footscray Falcons



5: IVAN VICELICH
Football Kings



NATIONAL



6: TOM PODELJAK
Sydney United



7: GABRIEL MENDEZ
Sydney Olympic



8: PAUL FOSTER
Brisbane Strikers

The IS Selectors explain their squad

Inside Soccer's selectors fronted a packed (1) media conference to explain their choices. This is what they had to say about their selected first eleven.

CLINT BOLTON (keeper): Just squeezed out Andy Crews. Bolton looks a tower of confidence at the back. His dumping from the Olyroos three years ago a distant memory.

MEHMED DURAKOVIC (libero): In a struggling side he stands out as a colossus. A former teammate of player/coach Jeff Hopkins, he has been outstanding and is easily the best signing the club has made this year.

BUDDY FARAH (central defence): One of the unsung heroes at a club with plenty of glam names. Does his job effectively.

IVAN VICELICH (central defence): Giant Kiwi defender who loves to attack. Has scored some valuable goals. More than one Aussie NSL club has noticed his contribution.

TROY HALPIN (midfield): Has looked all class. He is still young enough to go overseas. Was picked by Venables towards the end of his coaching reign. Under Stange Halpin has blossomed.

GABRIEL MENDEZ (free-roaming midfielder): It's great to see his South American skills on display regularly. If he can stay clear of injury will make an outstanding contribution to what is likely to be a finals campaign. Was at home having the class of Ian Rush to feed.

DAVID PILIC (right wing-back): Who? Another gem plucked from state football in Queensland. Like the Strikers he is hard-working and reliable. Made his mark at Rochedale Rovers the past couple of seasons. Having played for the QLD Juniors and spent time at the QAS, his ambition is to cement a spot in the Strikers starting line-up and play for Australia.

TOMMY PODELJAK (behind front two): He would be a star at one of the bigger clubs. Podeljak is destined for over-

seas success and is one of the genuine talents in what is a pedestrian side.

JOEL GRIFFITHS (central striker): Virtually one-handed he has lifted Power to within striking distance of the top six. His form has been so good there is talk that he could be looked at by Raul Blanco for the Olyroos. After a slow start in October, November was his month.

PAUL FOSTER (central striker): After getting a gig in the October All-Stars the 31-year-old has continued where he left off. He is the consummate professional. Finished the month off in style by scoring a hat-trick against Oceania champs South. See interview on page 6.

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI (left wingback): Again, another one of Eddie Kuncic's quiet achievers. 'Traj' does the simple things well and of course can score goals. Many would love to see him regularly play up front. His spell in that position a few years ago at Olympic singled him out as a quality striker. The Socceroo has a great attitude and is a model player.



John Kosmina
Brisbane Strikers



Nick Theodorakopoulos
Wollongong Wolves

How could anyone go past John Kosmina as coach of the month?

Unbeaten over the first two months, his style is not everyone's cup of tea but his players respond magnificently to him.

He has shown qualities of a true top drawer coach by assembling a squad largely devoid of big names and has moulded it into a fighting unit.

No egos in this squad, just hard workers who know where they stand.

His assistant is Nick Theodorakopoulos. At 35 he combines his soccer career with a successful life as a businessman.

His style is very much a free-flowing and attractive brand of football that deserves to be seen by more fans in the Illawarra, especially when three strikers are employed.

A keen student of the game with a media savvy approach, he is destined to move up in the coaching ranks in this country, but it is a crowded field with so many talented younger coaches coming through.

THE GIBSON BROTHERS WITH DANIELA

THE INTELLECTUAL AND THE EXTROVERT

Inside Soccer's Melbourne-based Daniela Raco checked out Sydney last week and spoke with the brothers Gibson - Chad of Marconi Stallions and John from Power.

Do you ever divulge team tactics to your brother the night before a big Marconi-Parramatta derby?

Chad: Never, but the Sony playstation games get pretty heated that week.

John: No, we have a 48 hour cooling off period.



Does the loser of the game have to do the laundry for a week?

Chad: No, he just cops a bagging till the next match.

John: He doesn't do any domestic work at all, any excuse to get out.

Describe your brother's mood after a bad game?

Chad: He doesn't want to talk - leave him alone.

John: We are very quiet and critical with ourselves. We work on it at training and focus on the following week.

Do you occasionally raid your brother's wardrobe or does his sense of dress leave a lot to be desired?

Chad: He knows what to wear and I'm always picking up tips from him.

John: We have a rule: if we buy something new, we wear it once then anyone can wear it.

Would you consider yourself to be a whiz around the kitchen?

Chad: Yes, curry chicken, fettuccine boschilla and stir-fry are my specialties.

John: Living away from home for four years I'm pretty good around the kitchen.

Who tends to sleep in on a weekend while the other rises early to do the housework, mow the lawn and prepare the evening meal?

Chad: I have a lot of power naps (no pun intended?)

John: Chad sleeps in. If not, he spends his time traveling and training.

Describe your brother's off field character?

Chad: John's sarcastic and quiet.

He talks when he needs to. He's the intellectual.

John: Chad's known for his mood swings.

How would you describe yourself as a player?

Chad: Versatile.

John: Goalscoring midfielder.

Is your style of play similar to that of your brother?

Chad: We are similar in attack, but John's heading is better (he uses his height).

John: We play in different positions, but I'm very versatile and have a knack for scoring goals.

Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

Chad: Ian Wright (Celtic): entertaining to watch. Scottie Pippen (basketballer): he can do it all - attack, defence.

John: No, I model my game on facets of different players.

As two soccer playing brothers you both must undoubtedly be quite competitive both on and, perhaps, off the field. Who is more inclined to keep a tally of goals scored and player votes?

Chad: Me at the moment, because I've got more goals than him.

John: I keep a tally of our playstation scores - FIFA 2000.

Best goalkeeper in the league?

Chad: Michael Turnbull (Mickey Blue Shoes)

John: Andrew Crews and Michael Turnbull.

Best striker in the league?

Chad: Pablo Cardozo (highly underrated).

John: Paul Foster.

Chad, any thoughts on Eddie's stylish range of jackets?

Chad: I only have to look at the labels to be impressed.

What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

Chad: Francis Awaratife - 'I had a dinner function'.

Do you know of any pre-match mishaps (missing strips, missing players, two left boots, etc.)?

Chad: One of Marconi's first eleven's hair was out of place and he was mentally distraught!

Do you follow any pre-match rituals or superstitions?

Chad: I'm always the last out and I make sure my family is in the crowd for home games.

Have you thought about a career after soccer?

Chad: Marine biologist or movie star (keep reading for his nickname).

John: You need a balance other than soccer, so I'm currently undertaking a Bachelor of Business degree.

Are you a boxers or briefs guy?

Chad: Boxers.

John: Calvin Kleins

Do you have a favourite nightspot?

Chad: Fringe Bar.

John: I enjoy a good meal - just eating and talking with friends.

I was born and bred in Melbourne, if you were to show me the sights of Sydney where would we go? Raves, Marconi Club?

Chad: Shopping in Paddington, brunch in a cafe, followed by a walk along Bondi beach.

John: The 56th Floor of the ANA Hotel in Sydney (Skyline of Sydney), Paddington markets and a picnic at the Royal National Park.

Describe your ideal woman?

Chad: Has to be her own woman - someone I can talk to?

John: Interesting, individual, intellectual and independent.

Describe your brother's ideal woman?

Chad: One in a million.

John: Anyone I approve of.

Who is the more eccentric?

Chad: Me, I'm the more outgoing - John's behind the scenes.

John: Chad's the extrovert - I'm more mellow.

What aftershave do you wear?

Chad: Issey Miyake and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

John: Issey Miyake.

Name your favourite female fragrance?

Chad: Versions of the above.

John: Something that's not overpowering.

What is your pet hate?

Chad: People who are into themselves.

John: Apart from losing, smoking and ignorant people.

What is your most cherished possession?

Chad: My framed Nelson Mandela photo.

John: My family.

Do you have any nicknames for each other?

Chad: John is known as 'Gib' 'promoter' (trouble).

John: Chad is the 'Worm' (Denis Rodman), and 'Hollywood' (because he enjoys his own limelight).

Who has the most influence in your career?

Chad: Parents, brother, Eddie Krmecic and Frank Farina (both have given me great opportunities).

John: Family.

Complete this sentence, 'Love is....'.

Chad: Knowing that I could not live without her and wanting to be with her for the rest of my life.

Chad, we know that you like to experiment with hair colours, trying the bleach blond look, but have you given any thought to, perhaps, a nose ring and tattoos?

Chad: Tattoos have been done - my brother and I have matching tattoos.

If you could have box seats at any event in the world, what would it be?

Chad: A ticket for Michael Jordan's last game in the NBA finals.

John: A NBA playoff with Michael Jordan.

What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

Chad: Can't hold a decent conversation.

John: One dimensional.

Do you have hidden talents?

Chad: DJ

John: My golf prowess.

Which member of your squad would top Cleo's most eligible bachelor list?

Chad: Danny Invincible (Ricky Martin).

John: Jacob Burns and Joel Griffiths.

Where would you rate?

Chad: I'm not into superficial lists.

John: I wouldn't put myself in any category.

If you to star in a Hollywood movie, who would be your leading lady?



Chad: Tyra Banks

John: If I were James Bond, it would be Denise Richards, or MTV's Cat Deeley.

Do you have a winning technique for scoring off the park?

Chad: Still trying to find the right formula.

John: Being myself.

Who is the more successful with the ladies?

Chad: Me.

John: Both, at different stages in our lives.

What would you consider to be a romantic night out?

Chad: Drinks overlooking the city, followed by dinner at an exclusive restaurant and a walk along the beach.

John: Sunset movies in the Botanic with a picnic basket.

Has this ever been played out?

Chad: I might get into trouble if I say yes.

John: Yes.

Thanks and good luck to you both.

LEEDS STILL ON TOP WITH LAST MINUTE WIN

Ole Gunnar Solskjær was the man of the day in the Premiership on Saturday with a superb four-goal blast to inspire Manchester United to a resounding 5-1 triumph against Everton.

But the team of the day were undoubtedly Peter Reid's Sunderland who exacted spectacular revenge on Gianluca Vialli's crumbling Chelsea by smashing the Londoners 4-1 at the Stadium of Light.

United ended the day as Premiership leaders after another Old Trafford rout.

Arsenal had briefly replaced Leeds at the top after cruising to a 3-0 win at Leicester in a morning kick-off at Filbert Street.

United had fallen behind to a Francis Jeffers strike after just seven minutes but fears that they were suffering jet-lag after flying back from Japan following their Intercontinental Cup triumph were soon erased.

They drew level when Denis Irwin converted a spot-kick given for a handball after 26 minutes and then Norwegian Solskjær took control.

Paul Scholes set up his first two on 29 and 43 and he grabbed his hat-trick just seven minutes into the second half.

And six minutes later Solskjær added another to make it 5-1 to United and become the only player to have twice scored four goals in a Premiership match.

Sunderland stayed just two points behind United with a sensational 4-1 win over Chelsea.

Reid's side had been embarrassed 4-0 at Stamford Bridge on the opening day of the season but they took just 38 minutes to set the record straight.

Niall Quinn sidefooted home a left wing cross after just 44 seconds, the fastest goal of the day in England.

The Quinn-Kevin Phillips axis was in tremendous form and Phillips added to the home fans' joy with a cracker midway through the half.

Phillips grabbed another to make it 16 for the season before the big Irishman rubbed Chelsea's noses in it with a wonderful left-foot volley.

Gustavo Poyet grabbed a consolation for Chelsea from a Gianfranco Zola corner with nine minutes left.

John Gregory's woes continued as his Aston Villa side slumped to a 1-0 home defeat against Newcastle.

Duncan Ferguson gave the visitors their first away win in the Premiership this season with a 65th minute strike to make it nine games without a league win for strug-

gling Villa.

Improving Wimbledon grabbed three easy points as they cruised to a 5-0 win over Watford to make it 11 games without a win for Graham Taylor's side.

Carl Cort put Wimbledon in front with his ninth of the season from a goalmouth scramble and Robbie Earle bundled the ball over the line for a second after 32.

John Hartson punished further woeful defending with a third just after the hour, Jason Euell made it 4-0 after 67 and Marcus Gayle completed the rout 12 minutes from time.

Bradford edged a point clear of the bottom three after a Lee Mills equaliser gave them a 1-1 home draw with Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough went ahead when Hamilton Ricard slid home his eighth of the season from a Christian Ziege cross in the 15th minute but Bradford, after missing a string of chances in the first half, finally drew level through Mills on the hour mark.

Southampton and Coventry both had numerous chances to grab a winner but had to settle for a 0-0 draw at The Dell.

Saints goalkeeper Paul Jones tipped Mustapha Hadji's fierce drive onto the wood-work while at the other end Dean Richards's thumping volley from Hassan Kachoul's corner somehow stayed out after crashing against the bar with Magnus Hedman well beaten.

Leeds United left it until the very last minute for the second week running to return to the top of the FA Carling Premiership in the main Sunday game.

Last week Michael Bridges scored in the 90th minute to give David O'Leary's men victory over Southampton and return them to the summit.

This time it was a controversial Ian Harte penalty deep in stoppage time against Derby County at Pride Park that once again took them above Manchester United.

Harry Kewell fell under challenge from Horacio Cabonari in the Derby box, although TV replays later showed any contact to be minimal.

But referee Paul Alcock pointed to the spot and Harte made no mistake.

Derby defender Spencer Prior was booked for protesting about the decision.

Kewell had nearly broken the deadlock in the 47th minute. The Australian winger surged down the left flank before unleashing a shot which just flashed past the far post and into the crowd.

Kewell again came close to scoring when his header just went over the wood-

work in the 49th minute.

Meanwhile Liverpool moved up to fifth in the table by crushing rock-bottom Sheffield Wednesday 4-1 at Anfield.

They piled on the misery for under-fire Owls boss Danny Wilson with a vibrant display.

Wednesday looked as though they might provide a shock when Niclas Alexandersson fired home a superb opener on 18 minutes.

He hammered the ball home from 20 yards out after a free-kick had been squared to him.

But within three minutes Liverpool were level, Finnish defender Sami Hyypia heading home from a corner.

The home side went in front four minutes before half-time when Danny Murphy was left with a tap-in after Kevin Pressman parried a shot from David Thompson.

Liverpool clinched victory after the break with two superb strikes from promising youngsters.

First Gerrard shot past Pressman on 69 minutes after a brilliant solo run.

And 10 minutes later Thompson curled a beauty into the top corner to wrap things up.

In Nationwide Division One Clyde Wijnhard's 11th league goal of the season put Steve Bruce's Huddersfield on top of the First Division.

Unbeaten at home now in 13 league games, they withstood a defiant Queens Park Rangers to regain control of the game and edge a point in front of Manchester City, whacked 4-1 at Wolverhampton last Friday night.

Barnsley took an early lead when Steve Chettle scored his first goal for the club by banging in a loose ball following a corner.

But Alan Curbishley's Charlton, now four games without a win, gleaned a valuable point through a 42nd minute equaliser from Keith Jones.

Bolton's run of seven leagues games without a defeat was ended by resurgent Tranmere who had captain Gareth Roberts sent off for a second bookable offence. John Aldridge's side went two in front through Andy Parkinson and Dave Challinor only for the Trotters to come back strongly with efforts from Eidur Gudjohnsen and Bob Taylor.

But just as it looked set to finish in a draw up popped Scott Taylor with a 79th minute winner.



Kevin Phillips ... another two goals.

Crewe, with only five home goals in eight previous home matches, netted twice in 22 first-half minutes to finish off Crystal Palace. Paul Tait opened his account before Steve Macauley lifted Alex out of the bottom three.

Fulham could not emulate their mid-week performance against Tottenham and found injury-hit Birmingham stubborn opponents. It was fierce stuff but neither side could break the deadlock.

Norwich went a goal down to West Brom as Kevin Kilbane registered his fifth of the season, but Iwan Roberts equalised on the stroke of half-time and the Canaries got their second wind to run out winners with Darel Russell scoring the vital goal.

Sheffield United ended a run of 10 games without a win and kept their first clean sheet in nine outings to get new boss Neil Warnock off the right foot. Paul Devlin's fifth goal of the season proved the decider against a Portsmouth side on the slide.

Stockport County are now unbeaten at home in 13 matches after ending Grimsby Town's mini-revival. Tony Dinning gave the home side the lead from the spot in the 34th minute and Kevin Cooper put the game beyond the Mariners with his 58th minute effort before Ian Hamilton, on loan from Sheffield United, pulled one back two minutes from time.

Port Vale and Blackburn are now unbeaten in six games apiece after a stalemate in the Potteries.

More than 7,000 fans saw bottom side Swindon go a goal down to Walsall after 34 minutes through Darren Wrack. But it took only four minutes for Michael Carrick to put Town on terms in a 1-1 draw which leaves the sides occupying the bottom two spots in

Aston Villa (0) 0 Newcastle (0) 1
Aston Villa: James, Calderwood, Southgate, Barry, Deianey, Boateng, Taylor, Hendrie (Thompson 9), Wright, Dublin (Carbone 52), Joachim, Thompson (Merson 73).
Subs Not Used: Stone, Enckelman.
Booked: Delaney, Boateng, Thompson, Wright.
Newcastle: Harroer, Cristovao, Dumas, Dabizas, Solano (Barton 86), Lee, Speed, Pistone, Ketsbaia (Hughes 84), Maric (Ferguson 51), Shearer.
Subs Not Used: Glass, Given.
Booked: Cristovao, Speed, Dabizas.
Goals: Ferguson 65.
Att: 34,531
Ref: M Riley (Leeds).
Bradford (0) 1 Middlesbrough (1) 1
Bradford: Clarke, Lawrence, Wetherall, O'Brien, Myers, Windass (Hale 25), McCall, Redfearn, Beagrie (Sharpe 85), Mills, Blake.
Subs Not Used: Davison, Whalley, Saunders.
Booked: Redfearn.
Goals: Mills 60.
Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Fleming (Maddison 50), Vickers, Festa, Stamp, Gascoigne (Summerbell 74), Mustoe, Juninho, Ziege, Ricard, Deane.
Subs Not Used: Beresford, Armstrong, Gavin.
Booked: Deane, Stamp.
Goals: Ricard 13.
Att: 17,708
Ref: R Harris (Oxford).
Leicester (0) 0 Arsenal (1) 3
Leicester: Flowers, Sinclair, Taggart, Elliott, Impey (Marshall 67), Izet, Lennon, Savage (Oakes 76), Guppy, Heskey, Cottee (Zagorakis

82).
Subs Not Used: Walsh, Arphaxad.
Arsenal: Manning, Dixon, Adams, Upson (Vivas 12), Winterburn, Silvinho (Hughes 65), Grimandi, Petit, Overmars, Kanu, Henry (Barrett 89).
Subs Not Used: Suker, Lukic.
Booked: Grimandi.
Goals: Grimandi 23, Dixon 53, Overmars 75.
Att: 20,495
Ref: D Gallagher (Banbury).
Man Utd (3) 5 Everton (1) 1
Man Utd: Boshnich (Van Der Gouw 8), G. Neville, Starn, Silvestre (P. Neville 64), Irwin, Scholes, Butt, Keane, Giggs (Cole 64), Sheringham, Solskjær.
Subs Not Used: Beckham, Yorke.
Booked: Butt.
Goals: Irwin 26 pen, Solskjær 29, 43, 52, 58.
Everton: Gerrard, Dunne (Ball 63), Weir, Gough, Unsworth, Barnby (Cleland 63), Xavier, Collins, Pembridge (Grant 80), Jeffers, Campbell.
Subs Not Used: Jevons, Simonsen.
Booked: Weir.
Goals: Jeffers 7.
Ref: G Poll (Tring).
Southampton (0) 0 Coventry (0) 0
Southampton: Jones, Tessier, Richards, Benali, Colleter, Ripley, Dodd, Oakley, Kachoul, Pahars (Davies 64), Beattie.
Subs Not Used: Boa Morte, Le Tissier, Bridge, Moss.
Coventry: Hedman, Telfer, Breen, Williams, Frogatt, Chippo, Palmer, McAllister, Hadji, Keane, Rousset (Whelan 64).

Subs Not Used: Ogrizovic, Strachan, Quinn, Normann.
Booked: Chippo, Whelan.
Att: 15,168
Ref: J Winter (Stockton-on-Tees).
Sunderland (4) 4 Chelsea (0) 1
Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Craddock, Williams, Gray, Summerbee (Holloway 84), Thirtwell, Roy, Schwarz, Quinn, Phillips.
Subs Not Used: Oster, Marriott, Reddy, Butler.
Goals: Quinn 1, Phillips 23, 36, Quinn 38.
Chelsea: De Goey, Lamourde, Babayaro, Desailly (Terry 46), Hough, Poyet, Wise (Wolleaston 77), Morris, Harley (Goldbaek 46), Zola, Flo.
Subs Not Used: Petrescu, Cudicini.
Booked: Babayaro, Harley.
Goals: Poyet 81.
Att: 20,495
Ref: S Dunn (Bristol).
Wimbledon (2) 5 Watford (0) 0
Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Kimble (Andresen 69), Thatcher (Roberts 46), Hreidarsson, Andersen, Cort (Hughes 79), Earle, Euell, Hartson, Gayle.
Subs Not Used: Badir, Davis.
Booked: Thatcher, Earle.
Goals: Cort 15, Earle 32, Hartson 61, Euell 67, Gayle 78.
Watford: Chamberlain, Page, Palmer, Robinson, Ngonge, Hyde, Johnson, Wootton, Gravelaine, Williams, Cox.
Subs Not Used: Day, Noel-Williams, Gibbs, Smith, Miller.
Booked: Williams, Cox.
Att: 14,021

Derby 0(0) Leeds 1(0)
Derby: Poom, Laursen (Prior 64), Carbonari, Elliott, Delap, Burley, Powell, Kinkladze (Dorigo 75), Johnson, Sturridge, Burton (Christie 81).
Subs Not Used: Hoult, Nimi.

Booked: Johnson, Laursen, Prior.

Leeds: Martyn, Kelly, Radebe, Woodgate, Harte, Bakke, McPhail (Jones 83), Bowyer, Kewell, Bridges, Huckerby (Smith 77).

Subs Not Used: Robinson, Mills, Duberry.

Booked: Bakke, Kelly, Smith.

Goals: Harte 90 pen.

Att: 29,455

Ref: P Alcock (Halstead).

Liverpool 4(2) Sheffield Wednesday 1(1)

Liverpool: Westerveld, Henchoz, Song (Carraher 73), Hyypia, Matteo, Gerrard, Hamann, Murphy (Staunton 77), Thompson, Camara, Owen (Fowler 81).
Subs Not Used: Meijer, Friedel.

Booked: Thompson, Henchoz.

Goals: Hyypia 21, Murphy 41, Gerrard 69, Thompson 79.

Sheff Wed: Pressman, Atherton, Jonk, Thome, Walker, Booth, Rudi (Quinn 89), Alexander, Nolan, Briscoe (Sibon 81), De Bilde (Cresswell 81).
Subs Not Used: Haslam, Smicer.

Booked: Thome, Rudi.

Goals: Alexander 18.

Att: 42,517

Ref: P Durkin (Dorset).

CELTIC EDGE CLOSER TO RANGERS



Lubomir Moravcik's double was the centrepiece of a resounding 4-0 Celtic success over Hibernian in a one-sided encounter at Parkhead.

The Slovakian struck twice after Mark

Viduka put John Barnes' men ahead from the penalty spot, before Morten Wieghorst claimed a Celtic fourth in the closing stages.

Celtic moved ahead after 18 minutes when Viduka went down inside the area and it was the Australian himself who stepped up to make it 1-0.

After 29 minutes Celtic doubled their advantage through a stunning Moravcik goal.

The Slovakian, played in by Paul Lambert, turned his marker expertly before firing the ball into the top corner of the net to receive a deserved standing ovation from the Parkhead faithful.

On 58 minutes Celtic were 3-0 ahead, Viduka setting up Moravcik who netted with a low diving header at the far post.

Yet for all Moravcik's brilliance, the best was saved until last an astonishing chip from Wieghorst giving Celtic the emphatic margin of victory their dominance deserved.

Hearts returned to winning ways at

Tynecastle with a 3-0 victory over Dundee United, who were the last team they beat more than two months ago.

In the battle between the two clubs most likely to be fighting it out for third position in the Scottish Premier League and the UEFA Cup place it brings, Hearts were seldom a dominant force.

But after Juanjo's fourth-minute header had given them an important early advantage, Darren Jackson clinched the win with a magnificent 69th-minute chip to thwart United's comeback hopes.

Stephane Adam's angled drive into the roof of the net two minutes from time was an emphatic confirmation of the three points after he was played in by substitute Gary Wales.

The other three scheduled games - Aberdeen v Motherwell, Dundee v Kilmarnock and St Johnstone v Rangers - were all lost to the weather.

Police in London came under attack last Saturday night as they tried to keep Millwall and Cardiff football fans separated following the game between the teams.

Traffic around Millwall's New Den stadium in south-east London was brought to a standstill as hundreds of fans confronted police.

Traffic cones, bottles and cans were thrown at officers outside the Golden Lion pub which, like all local pubs, was shut and boarded up for the day.

A police van was pelted with stones as it travelled up Rotherhithe New Road while hundreds of fans chanted "get the van". The vehicle was forced to make a sharp turn up a kerb in order to escape.

Despite a huge police presence, violence also erupted between fans before the game.

Around 25 arrests were made amid ugly scenes as riot police and mounted officers battled with supporters.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Leeds	17	12	2	3	30	19	38	11
Man Utd	16	11	3	2	40	21	36	19
Arsenal	17	11	2	4	31	16	35	15
Sunderland	17	10	4	3	31	17	34	14
Liverpool	17	9	3	5	24	14	30	10
Leicester	17	9	2	6	26	23	29	3
Tottenham	15	8	2	5	25	20	26	5
Chelsea	15	7	3	5	21	15	24	6
West Ham	15	7	3	5	17	14	24	3
Middlesbrough	17	7	3	7	21	24	24	-3
Coventry	17	5	6	6	23	18	21	5
Everton	17	5	6	6	25	27	21	-2
Wimbledon	17	4	8	5	27	29	20	-2
Newcastle	17	5	4	8	28	30	19	-2
Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	14	19	19	-5
Southampton	16	4	5	7	20	25	17	-5
Bradford	16	3	4	9	13	25	13	-12
Derby	17	3	3	11	15	29	12	-14
Watford	17	3	2	12	13	33	11	-20
Sheff Wed	16	1	3	12	14	40	6	-26

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Huddersfield	22	13	4	5	39	22	43	17
Man City	21	13	3	5	31	17	42	14
Charlton	21	12	4	5	38	24	40	14
Ipswich	21	11	5	5	35	23	38	12
Barnsley	21	11	3	7	39	33	36	6
Fulham	21	8	9	4	24	18	33	6
Birmingham	21	8	8	5	32	23	32	9
QPR	22	8	8	6	32	28	32	4

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Wigan	20	11	9	0	40	19	42	21
Preston	20	12	6	2	33	18	42	15
Gillingham	20	11	5	4	38	23	38	15
Bristol Rovers	19	11	5	3	25	11	38	14
Burnley	20	10	7	3	26	12	37	14
Millwall	20	10	6	4	32	21	36	11
Notts County	20	10	5	5	30	22	35	8
Stoke	20	9	7	4	30	18	34	12
Brentford	20	9	6	5	31	26	33	5
Bournemouth	20	8	4	8	28	28	28	0
Luton	20	8	4	8	25	27	28	-2
Wycombe	20	6	7	7	24	27	25	-3
Bury	20	5	9	6	29	27	24	2
Bristol City	19	4	9	6	24	27	21	-3
Oldham	20	5	5	10	20	26	20	-6
Scunthorpe	20	5	5	10	21	33	20	-12
Wrexham	20	4	8	8	19	32	20	-13
Cardiff	20	4	7	9	22	28	19	-6
Colchester	20	4	6	10	21	42	18	-21



INSIDE SOCCER

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SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
St Mirren	17	13	3	1	45	19	42	26
Dunfermline	17	9	7	1	33	16	34	17
Raith	17	8	5	4	33	26	29	7
Falkirk	17	8	3	6	28	26	27	2
Livingston	17	7	5	5	29	23	26	6
Inverness CT	17	5	5	7	23	28	20	-5
Airdrie	16	4	5	7	12	25	17	-13
Greenock Morton	16	4	4	8	25	29	16	-4
Ayr	17	4	4	9	16	28	16	-10
Clydebank	17	0	3	14	11	37	3	-26

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND ELEVEN

ADELAIDE FORCE V WOLLONGONG WOLVES

1 Vilson Knezevic
 2 Ivan Zelic
 3 Alex Tobin
 4 Carlo Talladra
 5 Damian Mori
 6 Carl Veart
 7 Nick Sabljak
 8 Aurelio Vldmar
 9 Derek Ferguson
 10 Nathan Day
 11 John Fusco
 12 Michael Cartwright
 13 Louis Brain
 14 Matthew Kemp
 15 Angelo Costanzo
 16 Bradley Hassell
 17 Claudio Pelosi
 18 Dong Ki Kim
 19 Shane Thompson
 20 Jonathan Lihou



1 Leslie Pogliacomi
 2 George Souris
 3 Alvin Ceccoli
 4 Robert Stanton
 5 David Cervinksi
 6 Matthew Horsley
 7 Paul Reid
 8 Anthony Surjan
 9 Sasho Dimoski
 10 Stuart Young
 11 Scott Chipperfield
 12 Neil Harlock
 13 Noel Spencer
 14 Saso Petrovski
 15 David Huxley
 16 Peter Lahanas
 17 Esala Masi
 18 Chad Bishop
 19 Paul Dimech
 20 Daniel Beritrame
 21 Christian Zelvis



Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium - Friday 10 December 8.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 35 Force wins: 13 Wolves wins: 11 Draws: 11
 Last Week: Force 2-0 away loss to Olympic
 Wolves 1-2 home loss to Knights

CARLTON v SYDNEY UNITED

1 Dean Anastasiadis
 2 Dave McPherson
 3 Craig Deans
 4 Simon Colosimo
 5 Sean Douglas
 6 Andrew Marth
 7 Stuart Slater
 8 Mark Atkinson
 9 Alex Moreira
 10 Lubo Lapsansky
 11 Archie Thompson
 12 Mike Conroy
 13 Steve Martin
 14 John Markovski
 15 Con Anthopoulos
 16 David Terminello
 17 Joe Tricarico
 18 David della Rocca
 19 Serdar Pir
 20 Adrian Cagaj
 21 Andrew Packer
 22 Angelo Motsopoulos
 23 Colin Azzopardi
 24 Joshua Kennedy



1 John Crawley
 2 Ray Younis
 3 Mark Racker
 4 Velimir Kupresak
 5 Eddie Bosnar
 6 Vince Savocca
 7 Mirko Jurilj
 8 Nahuel Arrarte
 9 Mario Jermen
 10 Ante Moric
 11 Tom Podeljak
 12 Tom Maric
 13 Matthew Zec
 14 Kain Rastall
 15 Aytez Genc
 16 Joe Moric
 17 Nick Bolevski
 18 Steve Bozinovski
 19 Greg Saric
 20 Steve Tolios
 25 Ante Deak
 30 Brett Hughes



Venue: Olympic Park - Friday 10 December 1999 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 4 Carlton: 0 United wins: 2 Draws 2
 Last Week: Carlton 5-1 home win over Canberra
 United 1-0 home loss to Glory

BRISBANE STRIKERS v GIPPSLAND FALCONS

1 Clint Bolton
 2 Glenn Gwynne
 3 Shane Stefanutto
 4 Andrew Davidson
 5 Matthew Bell
 6 Brad Ditton
 7 Shane Smeitz
 8 David Pilic
 9 Paul Foster
 10 Wayne Sroj
 11 Greg Di Losa
 12 Pete Dwyer
 13 Stuart McLaren
 14 Jade North
 15 Leo Langone
 16 Peter Grierson
 17 Jeremy Harris
 18 Nick Meredith
 19 Wade Baldwin
 20 Daniel Duke



1 Bojo Jevdjovic
 2 Dean Fak
 3 Manny Gotis
 4 Mehmed Durakovic
 5 Jeff Hopkins
 6 Brian MacNichol
 7 Andy Vargas
 8 Clayton Bell
 9 Robbie Puca
 10 Sandy Robertson
 11 John Hutchinson
 12 Peter Kakos
 13 Adrian Savage
 14 Doug Marcina
 15 Jonathon Buhugiar
 16 Juan Nilo
 17 Will Hastie
 18 Michael Katz
 19 Ivan Mandic
 20 Simon Miotto



Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium - Saturday 11 December 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Strikers wins: 6 Falcons wins: 5 Draws: 4
 Last Week: Strikers 2-1 away loss to Breakers
 Falcons 1-1 away draw with Kingz

PARRAMATTA POWER v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

1 Andrew Crews
 2 David Barrett
 3 Michael Santalab
 4 Steve Eagleton
 5 Richard Plesa
 6 Joe Vrkic
 7 Jacob Burns
 8 Walter Ardone
 9 Mile Sterjovski
 10 Joel Griffiths
 11 Steve Berry
 12 Stephen Laybutt
 13 Milan Blagojevic
 14 John Angelucci
 15 Danny Townsend
 16 Mark Byrnes
 17 Danny Kukucka
 18 Lachlan Campbell
 19 Matt Thompson
 20 Barney Smith
 21 Ahmid Elrich
 22 John Gibson
 23 Peter Bennett
 29 Mike Gibson



1 Bob Catlin
 2 Shane Pryce
 3 Andrew Roberts
 4 Adam Sanderson
 5 Todd McManus
 6 Glenn Sprod
 7 Travis Dodd
 8 Mark Wilson
 9 Chris Tancheski
 10 John Buonavoglia
 11 Luke Tomich
 12 Robert Angilevski
 13 Brad Wieczorek
 14 Greg Owens
 15 Joshua Ferguson
 16 Vasko Trpcevski
 17 Paul Wheeler
 18 Andrew Harper
 19 Chad Mansley
 20 Bradley Swancott
 21 Peter Juchniewicz
 22 Glen Moore
 23 Damien Smith



Venue: Parramatta Stadium - Friday 10 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Power 4-2 away loss to South Melbourne
 Breakers 2-1 home win over Strikers

MARCONI v FOOTBALL KINGZ

1 Michael Turnbull
 2 Chad Gibson
 3 Mark Babic
 4
 5 Dominic Longo
 6 Pan-Keum Kim
 7 Christian Care
 8 Darren McDonald
 9 Zeljko Babic
 10 Brad Maloney
 11 Mike Smith
 13 Danny Invincible
 14 Buddy Farah
 15 Pierluigi di Gia
 16 Alex Duric
 17 Francis Awaritefe
 18 Harry Karl
 19 Brendan Ranaud
 20 David Acsaki
 21 Paolo Marchesini
 22 Kris Trajanovski
 23 Vlado Zoric
 24 Josala Junior Sauturaga
 26 Daniel Severino



1 Michael Utting
 2 Che Bunce
 3 Riki Van Steeden
 4 Fabio Macollino
 5 Jonathon Perry
 6 Marcus Stergiopoulos
 7 Wynton Rufer
 8 Chris Jackson
 9 Fred de Jong
 10 Dino Mennillo
 11 Robbie Middiby
 12 Harry Ngata
 13 Levent Osman
 14 Batrum Suri
 15 Ivan Vcelich
 16 Lee Jones
 17 Maciel Edmison
 18 Stuart Riddle
 19 Leigh Kenyon
 20 Jason Batty
 21 David Moya
 22 Aaron Silva
 23 Simon Eddy



Venue: Marconi Stadium - Saturday 11 December 1999 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Marconi 1-0 away loss to Spirit
 Kingz 1-1 home draw with Falcons

TELECAST SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER 1999 10.00PM
 C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

PERTH GLORY v SOUTH MELBOURNE

1 Danny Milosevic
 2 Robert Trajkovski
 3 Jamie Harnwell
 4
 5 Vinko Buljubasic
 6 Gareth Naven
 7 Scott Miller
 8 Troy Halpin
 9 Allstair Edwards
 10 Bobby Despotoski
 11 Kasey Wehrman
 12 Peter Buljan
 13 James Afkos
 14 Dion Valle
 15 Edgar Junior
 16 Con Boutsianis
 17 Vas Kalogeracos
 18 Hamilton Thorp
 19 John Carbone
 20 Tony Franken
 21 Ivan Ergic
 22 Jason Petkovic



1 Milan Udvaracz
 2 Steve Iosifidis
 3 Fausto de Amicis
 4 Nick Orlic
 5 Con Blatsis
 6 David Clarkson
 7 Steve Panopoulos
 8 Vaughan Coveny
 9 Paul Trimboli
 10 Michael Curcija
 11 John Anastasiadis
 12 Richie Alagich
 13 Adrian Cuzzupe
 14 Anthony Magnacca
 15 Goran Lozanovski
 16 George Goutzoulis
 17 Jim Tsekinis
 18 Robert Liparoti
 19 Tasos Psonis
 20 Chris Jones
 21 Mustafa Mustafa



Venue: Perth Oval - Sunday 12 December 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 6 Glory wins: 3 Souths wins: 1 Draws 2
 Last Week: Glory 0-1 away win over Sydney United
 South Melbourne 4-2 home win over Power

LIVE FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 7.30 PM

C7 SPORT CHANNEL 13

CANBERRA COSMOS V SYDNEY OLYMPIC



COSMOS
1 David Millin
3 Toplica Popovich
4 Danny Burt
5 Nicholas Purdue
6 Jason Polak
7 David Winnie
8 Daniel Watkins
9 Alex Castro
10 Michael Musitano
11 David Arranz
12 Brian Hamilton
13 Harry James
15 Glen Kolpak
16 Ilija Prenzosi
17 Robbie Hooker
18 Nikola Mrdja
19 Geoff Howarth
20 Grant Barlow
21 Scott Conlon
22 Elliot Zwangobani
23 Ivo De Jesus (below)
25 Gabriel Gonzalez
29 Angelo Konstantinou
30 Angelo Konstantinou

OLYMPIC
1 Jim Kourtis
2 Scott Thomas
3 Chris Zoricich
4 Peter Tsekenis
5 Scott Ballie
6 Ante Juric
7 Zlatko Arambasic
8 Marcus Phillips
9 Pablo Cardozo
10 Brett Emerton
11 Chris Kalantzis
12 Sebastian Sinozic
13 Gabriel Mendez
14 Lindsay Wilson
15 Paul Kohler
16 John Kyriazopoulos
17 Nick Carle
18 George Bouhoutsos
19 Lee Miot
20 Pete Zorbas
21 Dylan Macallister
22 Norman Tome
23 Hussein Jomaa
24 Adam Ciantar
25 John Karouzas
26



Venue: Bruce Stadium
Friday 10 December 7.30PM
Head-to-Head: 16
Cosmos: 1
Olympic: 7
Draws: 2
Last Week:
Cosmos: 5-1 away loss to Carlton
Olympic: 2-0 home win over Force



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V NORTHERN SPIRIT



KNIGHTS

1 Joey Rayher
2 Ivan Jolic
4 Ante Kovacevic (below)
5 Jason Vukadin
6 John Didulica
7 Mark Silic
8 Dragi Nastevski
9 Ivan Kelic
10 Paul Urlovic
11 Mijo Trupkovic
12 Murtala Toyin Abbas
13 Lance Plunkett
14 Paul Magdic
15 Ransford Banini
16 Alex Kratzoglou
17 Brandon Vassalo
18 Roddy Vargas
19 Adrian Cervinski
20 Martin John
21 Zeljko Susa
22 Steven Tillinger
23 Michael Reda
24 Hrvoje Matkovic

SPIRIT

1 John Peroch
2 Robert Enes
3 Matthew Langdon
4 Matthew Bingley
5 Mark Rudan
6 Luke Casserley
7 Robbie Slater
8 Tony Perlinich
9 David Seal
11 Troy Cranney
12 Simon Catanzaro
13 Philip Moss
14 Shane Lyons
15 Anthony Faria
17 Paul Bilokapic
18 Paul Wearne
19 Graham Arnold
20 Jess Van Stratten
21 Michael Cunico
22 Paul Henderson
23 Adam Snyder
24 Elvis Olic
25 Ryan Griffiths
26 Jack Sobczyk
27 Adam Griffiths
28 Abbas Saad
29 Ian Crook
30 Sean Cranney



Venue: Knights Stadium
Sunday 12 December 8.00PM
Head to Head: 2
Spirit: 0
Stallions: 0
Draws: 2
Last Week:
Knights: 1-2 away win over Wolves
Spirit: 1-0 home win over Marconi



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Marconi Stallions v Football Kingz Saturday night.

Melbourne Knights v Northern Spirit Sunday night.

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